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CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF NAPLES AND SICILY.

1848—1849.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
May 4, 1849.*

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CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF NAPLES AND SICILY.

No. 1.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 16, 1847.

I HAD yesterday a conversation with Prince Castelcicala, the Neapolitan Minister at this Court, who expressed a wish to know whether your Lordship was likely to go on to Naples. I told him that your Lordship's present instructions did not prescribe any visit to Naples, but that I would write to you immediately to say that if the King of the Two Sicilies should, through Lord Napier, express any wish that your Lordship should visit Naples, you should immediately go thither, and should request an audience for the purpose of conveying to His Sicilian Majesty the strongest assurances of the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to maintain, and if possible draw still closer, the bonds of friendship which have so long united the Crowns of Great Britain and of the Two Sicilies.

I have accordingly to instruct your Lordship to go to Naples, if you should receive through Lord Napier any intimation that your doing so would be agreeable to the King of Naples; and I forward to your Lordship by the present messenger credentials to be presented to His Majesty in such a contingency.

If your Lordship should thus go to Naples, you will hold to the Neapolitan Government the same language which you have held to the Governments of Sardinia and of Tuscany. You will encourage the King to go steadily forward in effecting such improvements in the administration of his dominions as the state of things and the wants and reasonable wishes of his subjects may seem to require, without being restrained by the apprehension that by reforming real abuses, and by redressing acknowledged grievances, he will be less able to resist any exaggerated demands which may afterwards be made upon him. But your Lordship will, on the contrary, endeavour to convince the King that by doing that which is right to-day, he will gain additional strength to resist to-morrow that which may be wrong.

Your Lordship will also at Naples, as you have done elsewhere, endeavour to moderate the impatience of the reformers, and try to persuade them that they will attain with more certainty that redress and those improvements which they seek to arrive at, if they restrain their adherents, and patiently wait for the operation of reason and argument, than they would do, if they should allow their eager followers to break out into acts of violence, which would frighten many who sincerely wish for improvement, and would afford a pretext for a retrograde course to those who are on the look out for pretences to obstruct improvement.

Your Lordship will of course avail yourself of any opportunity which your visit to Naples may afford you, of endeavouring to persuade the Neapolitan Government to join the Italian Commercial League on the basis of a liberal tariff and of regulations favourable to freedom of trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON

No. 2.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lord Normanby.**

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 13, 1848.

REPORTS have of late been circulated that in some way or other the Constitution which was granted to the Sicilians in 1812, was guaranteed by the British Government. I think it right to inform your Excellency that the correspondence in this Office with Sicily in the years 1811-12, while the revision of the Constitution of the island was under consideration, and in the year 1813, after that Constitution was finally sanctioned by the King, contains no mention of any proposal for the guarantee of Great Britain to that Constitution having been either required or offered; nor does that Constitution, which was finally sanctioned by the King of the Two Sicilies in February 1813, allude to any such guarantee.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 3.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 18, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 17th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Goodwin, Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, relative to his refusal to be the channel of the protest containing the grievances of the Liberals of that city, I have to desire that your Lordship will convey to Mr. Goodwin my approval of the course pursued by him on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 4.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 12, 1848.)

(Extract.)

Naples, December 19, 1847.

THE Duke of Serra Capriola, whose recall from Paris by an autograph letter from His Sicilian Majesty, has excited much speculation, is designed for the Government of Sicily, but his Excellency after much discussion with the King on the subject, has not been able to obtain such powers as have induced him to accept definitively the offered dignity.

Messina is reported to be highly discontented, no redress having been given in consequence of the outrages of the garrison, which remains unchanged. Marshal Landi lives it is said under menace of assassination, and has not gone beyond the gates of the citadel for more than two months.

No. 5.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 6, 1848.)

My Lord,

Naples, December 28, 1847.

THE Duke of Serra Capriola has accepted the post of Lord Lieutenant in Sicily, which he has obtained it is said with more independent powers than have lately been conferred with that dignity.

His Excellency will shortly proceed to Palermo, where his appointment is likely I believe to give satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

* A similar despatch to Lord Minto. January 16, 1848.

No. 6.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 25.)

(Extract.)

Naples, January 4, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith, copy of a report respecting the character and views of the different sections of the Liberal party in Sicily, forwarded to me by Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo.

I think it right to add a subsequent despatch from Mr. Goodwin on the state of popular feeling.

I believe that the revolutionary committees of the island have been reorganized, and considerable sums of money subscribed for the purpose of levying war against the Government, but the party is deterred by the report of some meditated changes from immediate action, and it is also intimidated by the menace of Austrian intervention, a fear which, however illusory, is ever present to the imagination of the Liberals of this kingdom.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, December 17, 1847.

LED by careful consideration of your Lordship's instructions to think that some account of the views and objects of the Sicilian Liberals would be acceptable to Her Majesty's Mission, I do myself the honour to lay before your Lordship a short statement of political opinions, the materials of which have been drawn from authentic sources.

The Liberals of Italy and Sicily are divided into Centralists and Federalists. The Centralists of Italy demand the establishment of a General Government like that of France or England: the Federalists require the formation of an Italian league similar to the Germanic Confederation. The Centralists wish Rome to be the capital of Italy and the Italian isles, just as London is the capital of Great Britain and Ireland. The Federalists, averse to a metropolis, desire Naples, Rome, Florence, and Milan, to be each in its turn the capital of Italy, just as Berne, Lucerne, Zurich, is successively the Vorort of the Swiss Confederation.

The Centralists of Sicily, who would gladly see that island separated from Naples and formed into an independent State, would make Palermo the capital of Sicily. The Federalists, who are hostile to the proposed separation, wish the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies to consist as formerly of two realms united by a federal bond, but distinguished by different institutions for internal government, and they desire to make Naples and Palermo the alternate capitals of the united kingdom.

The Liberals of Sicily concur with the Liberals of Italy in demanding the substitution of popular election for royal nomination in the formation of communal councils and provincial assemblies. They likewise concur with the Italians in demanding the establishment of civic guards, the officers of which shall be chosen by the municipal authorities. They also concur with the Italians in demanding the establishment of freedom of the press under proper safeguards, and the abolition of the revisorship on the introduction of foreign books and journals. Lastly, they concur with the Italians in demanding the establishment of primary schools in all communes, the improvement of secondary schools in all large towns, and the institution of colleges in all great cities, on a broader basis and more liberal footing than those of the present universities.

They do not concur with the Italians in demanding a reform of the statute book and the introduction of juries. Satisfied with the *Codice* in general and the use of open trials, they seek only for a better and speedier mode of administering justice than has hitherto prevailed. Neither do

they concur with the Italians in requiring the abolition of the salt and tobacco monopolies, the trade in those products being free in Sicily, nor for the suppression of transit duties and internal customs, which important object has long since been attained. Nor do they concur with the Italians in seeking for the introduction of railroads; they merely desire the early completion of carriage roads already projected or commenced along the coast or through the interior.

They contend that these their reasonable demands can be granted by the King without violating the faith of Treaties. The Secret Article of the Treaty of Vienna, by which it is stipulated "That the King of the Two Sicilies shall not admit any change incompatible with the ancient Constitution of the monarchy or with the principles adopted by His Imperial and Royal Majesty for the internal government of his Italian provinces," would be in no wise infringed by the gracious concession of the desired objects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, January 3, 1848.

YESTERDAY Her Majesty's steam-ship "Gladiator" brought me a letter from Sir William Parker, in which the gallant Admiral states that various reports having reached him of the insurrectionary spirit of Palermo, he had thought fit to send the "Gladiator" hither to afford protection to Her Majesty's subjects.

I have assured the gallant Admiral in reply, that no insurrectionary spirit prevails here at present, and that confidence in this Government has never been shaken.

Various measures of a popular nature are confidently looked for on the approaching King's birthday, the concession of which will create the liveliest satisfaction, as surely as the postponement of the same will occasion the deepest disappointment.

In the latter case, should it unfortunately happen, a visit from one of Her Majesty's ships of war will be truly welcome to the British community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

No. 7.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 20.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 10, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, stating that the British merchants and residents at that city have petitioned Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker for the presence of one of Her Majesty's vessels of war about the 12th instant, in consequence of the general rumour and expectation of political troubles at that time.

The inclosed despatch from Mr. Barker, Her Majesty's Consul at Messina, will acquaint your Lordship of a disturbance which occurred at Messina on the 6th instant, and which terminated in loss of life. I have learned some further particulars of these disorders from an English gentleman present on the occasion, whose great experience of this country

makes him capable of giving a valuable opinion respecting the sentiments of the people, and he describes the disaffection of the Messinese and Sicilians in general as most serious and alarming. This gentleman is persuaded that an organised resistance to Government is in rapid course of being framed, which will manifest itself in public demonstrations of discontent in resistance to taxation, and in frequent revolts, to which some hazard might give a dangerous importance.

At Messina the populace were in uncontrolled possession of the town for the whole day, traversing the streets with menacing and revolutionary cries, compelling the shopkeepers and householders to exhibit signs of sympathy, to which indeed they were in nowise slow, and in the evening the rioters occupied, to the number of about 700, the theatre, where they endeavoured to pull down the crown over the royal box, which, however, appears to have resisted their efforts, and to have remained, merely, deprived of some of its decorations.

It was not till night that the troops marched into the streets with two pieces of cannon, and discharged a volley of musketry, which killed one man and wounded another.

In consideration of the great uncertainty and the expediency of procuring early and satisfactory intelligence, I have requested Captain Codrington to proceed with the "Thetis" to Messina, and to return to Naples after the dreaded crisis of the 12th has elapsed, so that both at Palermo and Messina Her Majesty's subjects will enjoy the protection of a ship of war.

There is this morning a report of a second insurrection of a more serious character at Messina, which I hope may prove unfounded, but my information from various quarters is of such a nature that I should not feel justified in neglecting in Sicily any precaution which could contribute to the security of British interests.

The French brig of war "Argus" arrived at Messina on the 2nd instant, where she still lies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, January 6, 1848.

INFORMED by Captain Robb that he proposed calling on the Lord Lieutenant, I did myself the honour to present him to his Excellency on Monday evening, when Captain Robb was kindly and graciously received. On the following day I introduced the British merchants to Captain Robb at my office, when the state of affairs was fully and freely discussed.

It was generally understood that Captain Robb would look in here on or after the 12th instant, when the soundness or unsoundness of public expectation would have been brought to the proof. Yesterday, however, Captain Robb having suggested that a requisition should be addressed to the Admiral for a vessel of war to be sent hither to wait the issue of events, the suggestion was readily adopted by the assembled merchants, and a requisition to the desired effect was drawn up forthwith and numerously signed.

No sooner was this document placed in the hands of Captain Robb than the "Gladiator" took her departure for Palmas Bay, Sardinia, to rejoin the Admiral.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Consul Barker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Messina, January 7, 1848.

I BEG leave to acquaint your Lordship that last night the populace of Messina and suburbs assembled in different parts of the town, shouting "Long live Liberty!" and soldiers were ordered to patrol the streets and to fire indiscriminately on the people.

A man was shot dead and another wounded. The town is in a very disturbed state, and it is dangerous to be out of doors after dark.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. W. BARKER.

P.S.—In port, the "Argus," a French brig of war, arrived on the 2nd instant.

A Neapolitan steam-frigate is taking troops from Villa S. Giovanni on the opposite coast.

W. W. B.

Inclosure 3 in No. 7.

Lord Napier to Captain Codrington.

Sir,

Naples, January 9, 1848.

IN consequence of intelligence which has reached me from Her Majesty's Consul at Messina, of certain disorders which have occurred at that city, and in the apprehension that similar excesses may perhaps be repeated in an aggravated form on the 12th instant, which seems by common consent to have been appointed by the Sicilian malcontents for a general demonstration of their political sentiments, I think it desirable that the British residents should have the presence of one of Her Majesty's ships of war for their security, in case of a collision between the populace and the royal troops.

I shall therefore request you to proceed to Messina with Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," under your command, should the instructions delivered by Sir William Parker leave you at liberty to do so, and remain at that port until after the 12th instant, when Mr. Barker will avail himself of your return to Naples to transmit to this Mission such information as he may be able to collect respecting the condition of that part of Sicily, a subject to which I have also the honour to call your attention as peculiarly interesting at the present moment.

Should the state of Messina on your arrival be such as to make you deem it advisable to prolong your stay, you will do so at your discretion, communicating the circumstances to Her Majesty's Legation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 8.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 25.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 12, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, descriptive of the state of public feeling in Sicily, which unless tranquillized by judicious concessions would seem to menace consequences of the darkest character.

I also venture to submit to your Lordship, in illustration of the same subject, copy of a letter which I have received from the Earl of Mount Edgumbe, who has resided at Palermo during the last two months, and

has possessed opportunities of ascertaining the sentiments which prevail especially among the upper classes of Sicilian Liberals.

I have written to his Lordship, acquainting him that I am not empowered on the part of Her Britannic Majesty's Government to offer any expression of sympathy or counsel to the party desirous of political change.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, January 8, 1848.

IN continuation of my despatch of 17th December, 1847, on the views and objects of the Sicilian Liberals, I do myself the honour to lay before your Lordship some further particulars which are believed to be equally authentic with the former statements.

The Sicilian Liberals disclaim all intention of separating Sicily from Naples, of calling for an alteration of the laws, or of requiring the convocation of Parliament.

Content with the union of the two countries, they profess to have no other desire than to see the established laws in favour of civil liberty put in full force, and to witness the restoration of communal councils and provincial assemblies to their original character. To these reasonable wishes, which are common to the whole party, some persons add a desire for the King's adhesion to the Italian League, and for the substitution of separate rights for common eligibility in the appointment to places under Government. The latter object requires explanation and remark.

By the second Caserta decree of 8th December, 1816, it is provided that all offices civil and ecclesiastical in Sicily shall be conferred on Sicilians, and that in like manner all such offices in Naples shall be conferred on Neapolitans.

This limitation was superseded in 1837 by a broad principle, in virtue of which Neapolitans and Sicilians were made eligible for offices in both countries without reference to the birth-places of the several candidates. The working of the new regulation has proved beneficial to the public sutor.

Certain it is that in Sicily civil justice is administered more fairly by Neapolitan magistrates than it was formerly dispensed by Sicilian judges. The case, *vice versâ*, is believed to be the same in Naples.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JNO. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, January 8, 1848.

SERIOUS fears are entertained of a general outbreak soon after the 12th instant, should public expectation, now raised to the highest pitch, be doomed to fresh disappointment.

These fears it is trusted are, if not groundless, at any rate exaggerated. The reflecting part of the Palermitan population must see clearly that with their present resources they can effect no material change.

A tumultuous populace, without chiefs or leaders, without artillery or ammunition, and without discipline or subordination, could do little or nothing against a force of 6000 troops provided with all requisites of warfare, well trained and instructed, and commanded by veteran officers enjoying the public confidence.

It is to be hoped that the Liberals will refrain from hostile measures and have recourse to temperate proceedings. A public demonstration or an unanimous resolution is more likely to answer their purpose than a popular movement, how extensive soever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

The Earl of Mount Edgumbe to Lord Napier.

My dear Lord,

Palermo, January 10, 1848.

I HAD written to your Lordship for the last post, thinking that it was desirable that you should receive every information possible as to the political state of this place; the post however did not go, and I regret to say that circumstances have since taken a very different appearance. Then I thought the risk of disturbances taking place but slight, now I fear that a serious outbreak is certain. I do not form this opinion from the circulation of such papers as the inclosed, which are handed about so generally that the mere fact of the distributors remaining unarrested gives strength to the belief entertained that the Government wish matters to be brought to a crisis, knowing as all must know, that nothing could occur so destructive of the hopes of those who seek to force a change in the system of government. My informants are such as must know the truth and can have no motive for deceiving me, and who till yesterday assured me that no danger existed. Now they make a directly contrary statement. One gives the strongest proof of belief in them by departing secretly; another has permitted me to name him, and who is, as you may probably know, the man who for talents and character as well as rank holds the highest position here, the Prince Scordia. He says, and it is the worst feature of the case, that all confidence in the Government is so entirely destroyed, that nothing short of acts will calm the people, and that any attempts of the Duke de Serra Capriola to do so by promises will be fruitless. That which not only he but others have told me would be most likely to have an effect, would be a positive assurance, public or private, that England was determined to exert herself to procure the restitution in their integrity of some of the institutions which they hold were promised by her in 1812-13. They felt that it was quite impossible that anything approaching to a specific promise could be made; but if your instructions would permit you to make some such declaration, as that if order was maintained, no bloodshed or violence took place, England had determined to use her political influence to obtain ameliorations in the system of this Government, though equally determined to give no aid by arms to any but her own subjects, such a declaration would have very considerable effect. All that I have heard induces me to entertain the same belief.

I fear that such a statement can now hardly be received in time; but be assured that the evils it is desired to prevent are of no slight importance.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) MOUNT EDGECUMBE.

No. 9.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 25.)

(Extract.)

Naples, January 12, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, informing me of an outrage committed apparently by the police of that city, who, in endeavouring at 3 o'clock in the morning of the 10th instant to execute a warrant in

an apartment underneath the residence of Her Majesty's Consul, tore down the arms of Her Majesty and cast them into the street.

The escutcheon was afterwards found in an adjoining house, where it had been deposited by a Commissary of Police.

I have felt it my duty to address the accompanying note to his Excellency Prince Scilla.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, January 10, 1848.

I BEG leave to report to your Lordship an incident, explanation of which I am about to seek from the Lord Lieutenant.

Awakened at 3 o'clock this morning by a loud knocking at the street door, I sent to inquire the cause of the disturbance and learnt that it was caused by the police, who demanded admittance to the apartment of the Count di Aceto underneath my own.

Before I could answer, word was brought me that Her Majesty's arms had been torn down from over the gateway and thrown upon the ground.

I immediately directed that the street door should remain closed until morning, a direction, compliance with which led to the retreat of the assailants.

On examining the street door this morning I find that the escutcheon has been wrenched from its place, thrown upon the ground and delivered to an opposite neighbour by an inspector of police.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

Lord Napier to Prince Scilla.

Naples, January 11, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to convey herewith to his Excellency Prince Scilla a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, by which the Undersigned is informed that at 3 o'clock in the morning of the 10th instant, the escutcheon placed over the gate of the British Consulate was forcibly torn from its place by an inspector of police or by the agents under his command, who were apparently charged to execute a domiciliary visit in the apartment of Count di Aceto residing under the dwelling of Her Majesty's Consul.

The arms of Her Britannic Majesty were at a later hour found deposited in the house of an opposite neighbour to whom they were by the Consul's assertion delivered by an inspector of police.

The Undersigned trusts that on being made aware of so serious an outrage on the part of a force destined to execute justice and preserve peace, the Lord Lieutenant will lose no time in bringing the guilty party or parties to punishment, and in offering to Her Majesty's Consul a spontaneous, ample, and public reparation.

The Undersigned deems it advisable however to submit to his Excellency Prince Scilla at once a formal statement of his opinion as to the nature and extent of the satisfaction which it will be his duty to require in order that no time may be lost in transmitting the necessary instructions to Palermo on the subject.

It is evident that the functionary in command of the party through whose agency the insult has been offered to Her Britannic Majesty's escutcheon is no longer worthy to retain his place in the service of His Sicilian Majesty, and that he has rendered himself incapable of receiving any employment or preferment under Government in future.

The dismissal and permanent incapacity for public functions of the agent in question, whose name and rank should be specified, ought to be stated in the official journals of Sicily and Naples (*cerere e Giornale delle*

Due Sicilie) with a specification of the circumstances which brought on him the displeasure of his Government.

A formal expression of apology and regret will be expected by Her Majesty's Consul from the officer in chief command of the police force at Palermo, and this mark of respect will best be paid at Her Majesty's Consulate at an hour agreed upon between Her Majesty's Consul and the said officer.

The arms of Her Britannic Majesty will be restored to their position, unless already replaced at an hour appointed by Her Majesty's Consul, by a deputation of police under the orders of an inspector, and this also will be equally announced in the journals above mentioned.

In communicating this statement to his Excellency Prince Scilla the Undersigned trusts that he may be merely recapitulating the intentions which have already suggested themselves to the Sicilian authorities, but should such not prove to be the case, the Undersigned will be under the necessity of informing his Excellency Prince Scilla that a smaller measure of reparation will not be considered sufficient to atone for the insult of which Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate has been the object.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 10.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 25.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 12, 1848.

IN illustration of my despatches of this day's date respecting the political aspect of Palermo, I think it right to add the following intelligence gathered from a letter addressed to Mr. Fagan, attached to Her Majesty's Legation.

The writer, a partisan of Government, describes a state of general terror produced by the circulation of minatory and alarming publications and intimations, communicated to persons of distinguished fortune and position, that any mark of respect or adherence to Government by law established will be visited by public reprobation and corporal chastisement or assassination. The ladies are forbidden especially to appear at the theatre on the 12th instant; and it seems to be the popular intention to render the birthday of His Sicilian Majesty an occasion for the exhibition of unbroken sadness and studied gloom.

An armed assemblage is also threatened in the Toledo of Palermo on the same day, which is perhaps one of the devices for keeping the royal troops in a constant state of sleepless activity, by which the garrison is said to be exhausted and the hospital filled with sick.

The fears of the Government are on the other hand greatly excited, and the arrest of twenty persons of note is announced, among whom are the names of the Duke of Villarosa, the son of Prince St. Elia, of a brother of the Marquis of St. Onofrio, of two gentlemen of the family of Ondes, and M. Amari, professor at the university, remarkable for his liberal sentiments and popularity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 11.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 25.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 14, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, in continuation of my despatches forwarded through Rome on the 13th instant, that intelligence was brought this morning of the occupation of Palermo on the 12th by a rebel force, whose arrival was saluted by the universal acclamation and revolt of the townspeople.

The King's birthday having been for a long time past appointed by the Sicilian Liberals for a great demonstration of their political sentiments, the authorities of the place caused the streets to be patrolled by a strong force of gendarmerie during the previous night.

At 8 o'clock in the morning the first gun of the royal salute fired, and this was the signal for a general insurrection.

From every house we are assured there issued an armed combatant, the gates of the convents were thrown open, and the capuchins appeared, loaded with weapons and ammunition, which had been secretly prepared and were freely distributed.

The patrols of police being surrounded laid down their arms, stripped off their uniforms, and were dismissed naked but uninjured. A vast multitude then passed out of one gate of the city to gain another, at which the succours from the country were expected. During their march they suffered the attack of two squadrons of cavalry; the first they repulsed, and retreated before the second, apparently through the desired gate into the narrow streets, where they were imprudently followed by the horse. The result could not be doubtful; the royal troops were overwhelmed by a discharge of furniture and hot water, and dispersed after a loss of thirty men.

In the meantime a multitude of about 10,000 peasants came down from the mountains to the assistance of their confederates in the city, under the command of one Scordato, a noted freebooter; and the Government forces, intimidated by such a display of popular strength, or disaffected to the Royal cause, or paralyzed by want of orders, remained inactive in the barracks.

The Lord Lieutenant, Majo, left his house with a single staff officer, and addressed the people, who told him that a period of twenty-four hours would be granted for consideration, after which, if the castle and forts were not surrendered, hostilities would recommence.

The Lord Lieutenant dispatched a steam-vessel to Naples with an appeal to the King for orders, which arrived this morning (January 14th).

Six steam-vessels are now in course of preparation, and an imposing force of infantry, cavalry and guns will be embarked in the course of the night.

The circumstances which I have the honour to submit to your Lordship are not derived from any official communication, for Her Majesty's Consul does not seem to have found means to forward his despatches, but I have drawn the preceding facts from sources worthy of credit, and I have no grounds for suspecting them to be highly coloured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 12.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 25.)

(Extract.)

Naples, January 14, 1848.

I HAVE no positive information as to the movements of Her Majesty's squadron under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

The intention of the Admiral was to remain at Palmas Bay in the Island of Sardinia, until the return of the "Odin" to rejoin him, and until he had received communications from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, after which he designed to repair to Malta before the 20th instant for provisions. I trust however that Sir William Parker may have determined, in consequence of intelligence from Sicily, to remain at some point of observation a little longer, and I have consequently requested Captain Lyon, who is at present here with his schooner "Fair Rosamond," of the Royal Yacht Squadron, to proceed to Palmas Bay in search of Her Majesty's squadron with despatches from Her Majesty's Legation, to which Captain Lyon has very obligingly consented. Should Captain

Lyon not find the Admiral in Sardinia he will endeavour to overtake him at sea, and should that prove ineffectual he will look into Palermo and return to Naples with information.

I shall request Sir William Parker to place a steam-vessel at my disposal, for communicating with the Earl of Minto and the various outposts of this kingdom.

I send off an estafette to the Earl of Minto with my present despatches, in order that his Lordship may possess the earliest intimation of what has occurred. Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" is I believe still at Messina, from which we have no certain reports.

One of Her Majesty's steam-vessels of war is stated to be at Palermo.

No. 13.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 24.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 15, 1848.

I FIND that in the despatch which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship last night by Rome, I underrated the number of steam-vessels put in movement by the Neapolitan Government for the suppression of the revolt at Palermo,

Not six, but nine, left this port with a force variously estimated, but which could scarcely fall short of 5000 men.

The chief command of the land forces is entrusted to General Desaget, who enjoys a reputation for resolution and activity,

His Sicilian Majesty presided during the whole day at the embarkation of the troops, encouraging them by appeals and promises.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 14.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 24.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 15, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatches forwarded by estafette to the Earl of Minto last night, I have the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith a copy of my letter to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, and of my instructions to Mr. Lyon, who set sail in the "Fair Rosamond," of the Royal Yacht Squadron, in search of Her Majesty's fleet, last night.

I have this morning forwarded a duplicate of the despatch to Sir William Parker under flying seal to Sir Lucius Curtis, with a request that he will send it off to Her Majesty's squadron wherever he may have reason to believe the latter will be found.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 14.

Lord Napier to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

Naples, January 14, 1848.

I HAVE requested Captain Lyon who is at present in this port with his schooner "Fair Rosamond," of the Yacht Squadron, to proceed in search of Her Majesty's fleet under your command, in order to communicate to you the following important intelligence.

On the morning of the 12th instant the city of Palermo revolted against the Royal authority, and the insurgents having been reinforced

by a vast multitude of peasantry from the vicinity, were enabled to defeat the troops after a short contest and to retain complete possession of the town, and it is said of part of its fortifications.

A short period of consideration has been granted until the forenoon of the 13th instant to the Lord Lieutenant, after the lapse of which his Excellency will be summoned to surrender the Castle, and in case of refusal, hostilities will recommence with greater vigour. The Royal forces are reported to have acted with great irresolution, and their defection is confidently predicted.

The Government of Naples are at the present moment preparing six steam-vessels for sea, in which a force of about 5000 men with cavalry and artillery will embark for the seat of rebellion, and the bombardment of Palermo might be the result of such a resistance as the revolted party are it is asserted prepared to offer.

Under these circumstances it is fortunate that British interests at that city enjoy the protection of one of Her Majesty's vessels of war.

In consequence of a previous disturbance at Messina, and in anticipation of more serious disorders, I instructed Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" to proceed on the 9th instant to that port, and to remain there in observation at his discretion, should circumstances appear to require his presence.

I have as yet received no report from Captain Codrington, but as a contemporaneous outbreak may be predicted at Messina with the Revolution at the Sicilian capital, I apprehend the "Thetis" will probably be detained for the protection of British property.

There is consequently no vessel at the disposal of Her Majesty's Legation.

I venture to submit to your Excellency that in the present posture of affairs in this kingdom, it would be extremely convenient to Her Majesty's Legation to possess the facility of communication which the presence of a steam-vessel would bestow, and I shall therefore request you, if it can be done consistently with the interests of the public service, to place one at my orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14.

Lord Napier to Captain Lyon.

Dear Sir,

Naples, January 14, 1848.

I SHALL avail myself of the obliging promptitude which you have shown in placing the "Fair Rosamond" at the disposal of Her Majesty's Legation, to request that you will proceed with the accompanying despatch to Palmas Bay in the Island of Sardinia, where I trust you will still find the squadron under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

Should Her Majesty's squadron have left that station, you will perhaps be enabled to discover them cruising in some quarter of observation between Sardinia and Sicily, and should this attempt be equally ineffectual, I shall beg you, if you can do so consistently with your convenience, to touch at Palermo and communicate with Her Majesty's Consul and the Officer in command of one of Her Majesty's vessels of war at that port, and charge yourself with any despatches they may deem it desirable to forward to Her Majesty's Legation.

I beg you will accept the expression of my gratitude for the service which you are about to render, and I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 15.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 25.)

(Extract.)

Rome, January 16, 1848.

THE importance of the intelligence contained in Lord Napier's despatches which reached me last night, induces me to send off the messenger without waiting for further accounts of the progress of the insurrection, which will probably be found to extend through the whole of Sicily, unless very promptly suppressed.

Should it happen that the insurgents are successful and proceed as some expect to proclaim the Constitution of 1812, I very much fear that it may be difficult to prevent some agitation for Representative government in Tuscany, as well as a great deal of popular excitement in other parts of Italy, which it may require all the prudence and the influence of the moderate party to restrain.

It may be extremely desirable that Lord Napier and I should as early as possible be informed of the views of Her Majesty's Government on such questions as are likely to arise out of the present state of affairs in Sicily and at Naples. It is very probable that the people in both kingdoms may rely in some degree upon the expected support of England in their resistance to the intolerable tyranny of their Government, and are thus led to commit themselves imprudently in desperate undertakings.

My language has been that our good offices and whatever influence we might possess had been and would be employed to engage the King of Naples to satisfy the just desires of his subjects; but that we could not interpose as parties in the internal affairs of foreign States. That the position we had assumed with respect to the reforming States of Italy was based upon the opinion of their right to judge and to act for themselves without being subject to foreign control. There are however many practical questions not touched by this principle, upon which it would be useful that your Lordship's sentiments should be known to us: and chiefly with regard to the employment of our fleet. There is no doubt I think that the presence of some ships at least on the Neapolitan and Sicilian coast is extremely desirable, both as a protection to British interests and as a refuge to the many eminent and respectable individuals who may be exposed to royal or popular vengeance.

The despatches received from Naples by Cardinal Ferretti and by the Minister of Sardinia, in all respects confirm the particulars reported by Lord Napier.

No. 16.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 27.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 17, 1848.

SINCE I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 14th, there has been a complete suspension of all official communication between the Diplomatic Body at Naples and the Consular authorities at Palermo.

I am therefore unable to submit to your Lordship any report from Mr. Goodwin of the state of affairs; but your Lordship may accept the following particulars as certain, for I have obtained them from a trustworthy person who was on board ship in the port of Palermo during the whole of Thursday the 13th, the day after the explosion of the revolt.

On that day there was within the city a constant rumour of popular agitation, and the incessant noise of musketry, while the citadel (Castellamare) kept up a deliberate but regular fire of round shot towards the town.

There were no boats in the harbour but those of Her Majesty's steam-frigate "Bulldog," which were observed to pull in and out twice.

From a gentleman connected with the Liberal party of Naples, I learned

that a letter had been received to the effect that the principal attacks had been directed towards the bank, the barracks, the Palace, and the citadel, with what success seemed doubtful, but that a surprising enthusiasm and devotion was displayed by all classes of the people, and even by the women, who contributed both from their pecuniary means and by their personal exertions to the popular cause; that the church bells rang out encouragement, and that the magistrates and priests lent the aid of authority and religion to the efforts of the common orders.

The flotilla armed at Naples on the 14th must have reached Palermo on the 15th, and the news of their arrival was brought to the capital last night (16th) by a steam-vessel, which however has been so jealously guarded that I can only state to your Lordship from hearsay, that the troops landed in the harbour without opposition, but found the gates of the city barricaded and a resolution apparently to defend it with obstinacy. This opinion seems to be substantiated by the fact that Government are at the present moment shipping for Palermo a great quantity of provisions, which would not be necessary if the royal forces had an immediate prospect of finding subsistence in the town or the surrounding villages.

I have no intelligence from Messina, beyond the report that it is in full insurrection, directed by a Provisional Government. The prolonged absence of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" seems to fortify this view, though I was assured by General Sabatelli, who is near the person of the King, that the news from thence was favourable to the Government.

At Catanin and Trapani the Revolution is also believed to be successful; but I cannot vouch for the truth of these rumours any more than I can predict the fulfilment of various predictions of rebellion in the districts of Salerno and Avellino, or the assertion that disturbances have occurred of a serious character at Foggia and Manfredonia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 17.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 27.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 18, 1848.

TWO Neapolitan vessels of war entered the port of Naples last night, on board one of which was His Royal Highness the Count of Aquila.

The intelligence brought by these steam-vessels has not yet transpired, but according to the impressions conveyed to me by the Apostolic Nuncio, the Sardinian Chargé d'Affaires, and from other sources of information, no serious attack had been attempted on the 16th instant against the city. The plan of General Desauget is said to be to batter and storm the seagate, and by this aperture to penetrate into the main street, to restore the communication between the different points in the interior still in possession of the royal forces, and then to commence an invasion in detail of the various alleys and blocks of houses in which the rebels are intrenched, should the latter persevere in such a resistance.

A Provisional Government is believed to be formed under the Duke of Serra di Falco, Prince Scordia, son of Prince Trabia, and Ruggiero Settimo, an ancient naval officer of distinction and experience.

The revolted party are moreover believed to be in possession of about twenty pieces of cannon taken from the ramparts and some detached works of which they are masters.

I have this moment got a short memorandum from one of the steam-vessels that entered Naples last night, stating that during the whole of Sunday the steam-vessels of war fired unremittingly into the city, although the land forces had not made any effort upon the fortifications. Palermo is however constructed of stone with vast solidity, and can neither be set on fire nor very quickly beaten down. Her Majesty's subjects had taken refuge on board Her Majesty's steamer "Bulldog."

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 18.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

Sir,

Admiralty, January 27, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you for the information of Viscount Palmerston, that a despatch has been received from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated the 15th instant, reporting his arrival at Malta with the squadron under his command, having sailed from Palmas Bay (Sardinia) on the 10th instant; and stating that as an insurrectionary movement was apprehended at Palermo about the period of the King's birthday on the 12th instant, if some expected concessions by the Government were not granted, he had detached the "Bulldog" to remain at that place for the protection of British interests, with directions to rejoin him at Malta as soon as the alarm subsides.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

No. 19.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 28.)

(Extract.)

Rome, January 18, 1848.

THE aspect of affairs in the south of Italy is such as to call for the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I have hitherto endeavoured, by preventing the approach of our fleet and by my conversation, public and private, to discourage insurrectionary movements in the Neapolitan dominions, which with little prospect of success might disturb the quiet progress of political reorganization in Central Italy.

The insurrection at Palermo, of which your Lordship is informed, has now however left no hope of longer maintenance of peace in that country. According to the best information I am able to obtain, the Revolution appears to have extended itself to the other parts of Sicily; and it is known that risings are prepared and indeed in a few places have partially commenced in the continental dominions of the King of Naples.

The immediate issue of this struggle will probably depend upon the fidelity of the Neapolitan army, which I believe to be less disaffected than has been supposed. But permanent tranquillity cannot be hoped for until large concessions are granted to the people.

No. 20.

The Marquis of Normanby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 28.)

My Lord,

Paris, January 27, 1848.

AFTER I had the honour yesterday of presenting the letters of condolence to the King on the death of the Princess Adelaide, His Majesty desired me to remain, and conversed with me for half an hour upon various subjects, avoiding however any allusion to those upon which there had recently been any difference of opinion between the two Governments.

The King spoke much of Italy, and adverted with some uneasiness to the amount of the Austrian army collecting in that peninsula. His Majesty stated that he had now better hopes of the permanent improvement of the whole of the north of Italy beyond the Austrian frontiers. His accounts from Tuscany and Rome were satisfactory. His Majesty seemed, as was natural, principally occupied with the Sicilian affairs. His language upon this subject was most strong against the conduct of

the Neapolitan Government. He said that all the successive Sovereigns of Naples had committed a series of wrongs upon the Sicilian people ever since the island had been restored to them in conjunction with the Kingdom of Naples; they had violated the Constitution which they had promised to uphold, by destroying the nationality which they had engaged to maintain. The edict by which they had suppressed the name of Sicily was most arbitrary. His Majesty considered the title of King of the United Kingdom of the Two Sicilies as nonsense, but as having been devised for the insidious purpose of getting rid of the Sicilian obligations by a side wind. He stated also that there had been a systematic violation of an original engagement entered into by the predecessors of the present Sovereign at the time of the original transfer of the island, when they had promised that there should be only few employments held by Neapolitans or Spaniards. The King mentioned the post of Viceroy, that of Archbishop of Palermo, and two others which I have not retained. All the other officers of Government he says were to have been natives of the island.

The King did not make any decided prophecy as to the result; but after saying that he was well acquainted with the character of both the contending parties, he left me with the impression that he thought the Neapolitan army would neither have the power nor perhaps the disposition to suppress the revolt of a determined people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NORMANBY.

No. 21.

The Marquis of Normanby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 30.)
(Extract) *Paris, January 29, 1848.*

I INCLOSE you a letter I have just received from Lord Napier.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Lord Napier to the Marquis of Normanby.

(Extract.) *Naples, January 19, 1848.*

THE French Chargé d'Affaires is this moment sending off an estafette, and as he may arrive at Paris before my messenger through Rome, who will bring you my despatches with the details of the late events, I seize the occasion to inclose you copies of two proclamations put forth last night and to-night, containing certain administrative concessions, the appointment of His Royal Highness the Count d'Aquila to be Viceroy of Sicily, an amnesty, and a new law for the press. Palermo holds out; the provinces are all on the brink of revolt; and after a long debate and painful struggle in Council yesterday, the resolution was taken to yield. The present measures are meant to tranquillize the agitation of the public mind and bring the Sicilians to terms; but they are inadequate to the emergency, and contain no guarantee for future good government or reform.

"Bulldog" at Palermo; "Thetis" at Messina; Admiral at Malta with squadron.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

From the Supplement to the "Giornale del Regno delle Due Sicilie,"
of January 19, 1848.

SUA Maestà, seguendo sempre gl' impulsi generosi del suo real animo, si è degnato ordinare che i Ministri di Grazia e Giustizia e della Polizia Generale gli presentino sollecitamente i nomi dei condannati e detenuti per cause politiche, per far grazie, adottando in pari tempo quei provvedimenti che più saranno opportuni alla pubblica tranquillità.

(Translation.)

HIS Majesty following always the generous impulse of his royal heart, has deigned to order that the Ministers of Grace and Justice and General Police present to him promptly the names of the condemned and imprisoned for political causes, in order to grant them pardon, adopting at the same time those measures that shall be most necessary to ensure public tranquillity.

No. 1.—*Royal Ordinance respecting the powers and attributes of the Council of State, Provincial Councils, and Communal Institutions of Naples and Sicily.*

Ferdinando II, &c.

DOPO di avere col nostro Real Decreto del 13 Agosto, 1847, provveduto al ben essere de' nostri amatissimi popoli con l'abolizione del dazio sul macino, con la diminuzione di quello sul sale nei nostri Reali Dominj al di quà del Faro e con altri disgravj nella Sicilia, noi ci proponevamo di portare utili miglioramenti nella grande amministrazione dello Stato.

Noi abbiamo considerato che le nostre leggi, le istituzioni civili e le garanzie che i nostri augusti predecessori avevano concedute, contengono tutti i germi della pubblica prosperità.

Se non che queste istesse civili istituzioni possono rievolvere dei miglioramenti, perocchè è questa la condizione delle umane cose.

Per tali considerazioni, di nostra piena e spontanea volontà ordiniamo quanto segue:

1. Alle attribuzioni accordate alle Consulte di Napoli e di Sicilia con la Legge Organica del 14 Giugno, 1824, aggiungiamo le seguenti:

1. Di dar parere necessario sopra tutti progetti di leggi e regolamenti generali.

2. Di esaminare e dar parere rispettivamente, sugli stati discussi generali delle Reali Tesoriere dei Reali Dominj di quà e di là dal Faro, sugli stati discussi provinciali e su quelli comunali di cui per legge è a noi riservata l'approvazione, sulle imposizioni dei dazi comunali e sulle tariffe di essi.

3. Sull' amministrazione ed ammortizzazione del debito pubblico.

4. Sui Trattati di Commercio e sulle Tariffe Doganali.

5. Sui voti emessi dai Consigli Provinciali a termini dell' articolo 30 della Legge del 12 Dicembre, 1816.

6. Sugli affari qui annunziati i Ministri a Portafoglio non potranno portare a noi proposizioni in Consiglio, senza aver prima sentito il parere della Consulta.

II. I Consigli Provinciali di Napoli e di Sicilia da cui le province giusta la legge del 12 Dicembre, 1816, sono rappresentate, godono tra noi da lungo tempo di preziosi privilegi. A noi piace aggiungerli i seguenti:

1. L'amministrazione dei Fondi Provinciali è affidata ad una deputazione che i Consigli Provinciali nella loro annua riunione nomineranno, ed alla quale ne sarà affidata l'amministrazione sotto la presidenza dell' Intendente.

2. Gli atti dei Consigli Provinciali preveduti nell' articolo 30 della legge del 12 Dicembre, 1816, ed i loro stati discussi, dopo la sovrana approvazione, saranno resi pubblici per la stampa.

III. Volendo noi confidare agli stessi Comuni di Napoli e di Sicilia l'amministrazione dei loro beni, per quanto sia compatibile col potere riservato sempre al Governo per la conservazione del patrimonio dei comuni, vogliamo che la Consulta Generale ci presenti un progetto che deve avere per basi:

1. La libera elezione dei Decurioni confrita agli elettori.

2. Ogni attribuzione deliberativa conceduta ai Consigli Comunali.

3. Ogni incarico di esecuzione confidato ai Sindaci.

4. La durata della carica dei Cancellieri Comunali.

IV. Il Nostro Consigliere Ministro di Stato Presidente interino del Consiglio dei Ministri, tutti i Nostri Ministri, ed il Luogotenente-Generale nei nostri dominj di là dal Faro, sono incaricati della esecuzione di queste nostre sovrane disposizioni.

Napoli, 18 Gennaio, 1848.

(Firmato)

FERDINANDO.

MARCHESE DI PIETRACATELLA.

(Translation.)

Ferdinand II, &c.

AFTER having by our Royal Decree of the 13th of August, 1847, provided for the well-being of our beloved people, by the abolition of the duty on the grinding of corn, by the diminution of that on salt in our dominions on this side of the Faro, and by other alleviations in Sicily, we proposed to carry useful ameliorations into the grand administration of the State.

We have considered that our laws, the civil institutions, and the guarantees that our august predecessors had granted, contain all the seeds (or foundations) of public prosperity.

Nevertheless these same civil institutions may receive ameliorations, because such is the condition of worldly things.

Under such considerations, with our full and spontaneous will, we ordain as follows :—

I. To the powers granted to the Consultas of Naples and Sicily by the organic laws of the 14th of June, 1824, we add the following :

1. To give a necessary opinion (or judgment) on all projects of laws and general regulations.

2. To examine and give opinion respectively on the general budgets of the Royal Treasury of the Royal Dominions on this side and beyond the Faro, on the provincial budgets, and on those of corporations of which by law the approbation is reserved to us, on the impositions of communal taxes and their tariffs.

3. On the administration and redeeming of the Public Debt.

4. On Treaties of Commerce and on Custom-House Tariffs.

5. On the votes issued by the Provincial Councils according to the terms of Article 30 of the Law of the 12th of December, 1816.

6. On the affairs here mentioned the Ministers holding a portfolio shall not have the power to present propositions to us in Council, without having previously heard the opinion of the Consulta.

II. The Provincial Councils of Naples and Sicily, by whom according to the Law of the 12th of December, 1816, the provinces are represented, enjoy amongst us for a long time some precious privileges ; we are pleased to add the following :—

1. The administration of the Provincial Funds is confided to a deputation which the Provincial Councils in their annual assembly will name, and to which will be confided the administration under the presidency of the Intendant.

2. The Acts of the Provincial Councils mentioned in the Article 30 of the Law of the 12th December, 1816, and their state discussions, after the sovereign approbation shall be printed and made public.

III. Being willing to confide to the said corporations of Naples and Sicily the administration of their revenues, as far as shall be compatible with the power always reserved to the Government for the preservation of the patrimony of the corporations, we will that the General Council present to us a project that must have for basis :—

1. The free election of the decurions conferred on the electors.

2. Every deliberative attribution conceded to the Corporation Councils.

3. Every charge of execution confided on the Syndics.

4. The duration of the charge of the Corporation Chancellors.

IV. Our Councillor Minister of State, President of the Council of Ministers, all our Ministers, and the Lieutenant-General of our dominions beyond the Faro, are charged with the execution of these our sovereign dispositions.

Naples, January 18, 1848.

(Signed)

FERDINANDO.

MARCHESI DI PIETRACATELLA.

No. 2.—*Royal Ordinance respecting the Administration of Government in Sicily.*

Ferdinando II, &c.

VEDUTA la legge del 8 Dicembre, 1816, che dopo essersi nel Congresso di Vienna confermata e riconosciuta da tutte le Potenze la riunione delle due Sicilie in un sol regno, stabili delle regole fondamentali per l'amministrazione de' nostri Stati;

Veduta la legge del 11 Dicembre, 1816, con la quale i privilegi anticamente conceduti ai Siciliani furono messi di accordo con la unità delle istituzioni politiche che in forza de' Trattati di Vienna costituir dovevano il dritto politico del Regno delle Due Sicilie;

Veduto l'Atto Sovrano di questo giorno con il quale abbiamo di nostra spontanea volontà date delle benefiche disposizioni per i nostri popoli di Napoli e di Sicilia;

Volendo dippiù che la Sicilia continui a godere di tutt' i vantaggi di un' amministrazione distinta e separata da quella di Napoli;

Abbiamo ordinato e ordiniamo quanto segue:

I. Le leggi degli 8 ed 11 Dicembre, 1816, sono richiamate nel loro pieno vigore.

II. Il decreto del 31 Ottobre, 1837, per la promiscuità di cariche e d'impieghi è abrogato.

III. Confermiamo per sempre la reciproca indipendenza giudiziaria de' nostri dominj di quà e di là dal Faro, ed in conseguenza le cause ordinarie dei Siciliani continueranno ad essere giudicate, sino all' ultimo appello, dai tribunali di Sicilia. Del pari continueranno in Sicilia la Suprema Corte di Giustizia, e la Gran Corte di Conti, uguali a quelle di Napoli.

IV. L' amministrazione della Sicilia continuerà ad esser separata, come lo è stato sinora, da quella de' nostri reali dominj al di quà del Faro.

V. Tutti gl' impieghi, tutte le cariche in Sicilia saranno d'oggi innanzi occupate dai soli Siciliani, come nella parte continentale del regno dai soli Napoletani.

Per non portare un disordine ne' diversi rami di amministrazione, la promiscuità attuale d'impieghi e di cariche dovrà cessare nel più breve tempo possibile da non oltrepassare quattro mesi.

E per le cariche ecclesiastiche, tosto che gli attuali titolari cesseranno di occuparle.

VI. Il nostro Consigliere Ministro di Stato, Presidente Interno del Consiglio de' Ministri, e tutt' i nostri Ministri sono incaricati della esecuzione di queste nostre sovrane disposizioni.

Napoli, 18 Gennajo, 1848.

(Firmato)

FERDINANDO.

MARCHESE DI PIETRACATELLA.

(Translation.)

Ferdinand II, &c.

HAVING seen by the law of the 8th of December, 1816, that after the reunion of the Two Sicilies into one kingdom was at the Congress of Vienna confirmed and acknowledged by all the Powers, fundamental regulations were established for the administration of our States;

Having seen the law of the 11th of December, 1816, by which the privileges anciently granted to the Sicilians were made to agree with the unity of political institutions which in virtue of the Treaties of Vienna were to constitute the political right of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies;

Having seen the Sovereign Act of this day, by which we have with our spontaneous will given some beneficent dispositions for our people of Naples and Sicily;

Willing, moreover, that Sicily should continue to enjoy all the advantages of an administration distinct and separated from that of Naples;

We have ordained and do ordain as follows:—

I. The laws of the 8th and 11th of December, 1816, are recalled into their full vigour.

II. The Decree of the 31st of October, 1837, for the promiscuousness of public charges and employments is abrogated.

III. We confirm for ever the reciprocal judiciary independence of our dominions on this side and beyond the Faro, and consequently the ordinary causes of the Sicilians shall continue to be judged, even to the last appeal, by the tribunals of Sicily; likewise the Supreme Court of Justice, and the Grand Court of Accounts, shall continue in Sicily equal to those of Naples.

IV. The administration of Sicily shall continue to be separate, as hitherto, from that of our royal dominions on this side of the Faro.

V. All employments, all charges in Sicily shall henceforth be occupied by Sicilians only, as likewise in the continental part of our Kingdom, by Neapolitans only.

Not to create confusion in the various branches of the administration, the actual promiscuousness of employments and charges shall cease in the shortest possible time, and shall not exceed four months.

And in regard to ecclesiastical offices, as soon as the actual possessors shall cease to fill them.

VI. Our Councillor Minister of State, President of the Council of Ministers, and all our Ministers are charged with the execution of these our sovereign dispositions.

Naples, January 18, 1848.

(Signed) FERDINANDO.

MARCHESE DI PIETRACATTELLA.

No. 3.—*Royal Ordinance authorizing the appointment of Extraordinary Members of the Council of State of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.*

Ferdinando II, &c.

VEDUTA la legge organica della Consulta Generale del Regno del 14 Giugno, 1824;

Volendo che la discussione degli affari rimessi al suo parere proceda con maggior speditezza e maturità;

Ordiniamo quanto segue:

I. Sono istituiti dei Consulitori in servizio straordinario.

II. Allorché la nostra residenza sarà nei nostri dominj al di quà del Faro saranno di dritto Consulitori straordinarj il Presidente della Suprema Corte di Giustizia, il Presidente della Gran Corte dei Conti, il Presidente della Gran Corte Civile, i Direttori-Generali, il Presidente della Pubblica Istruzione, il Soprintendente della Pubblica Salute, ed altri che crederemo opportuni fra i nostri sudditi dei nostri reali dominj di quà e di là del Faro. Nel caso poi che la nostra residenza avrà luogo nei nostri reali dominj al di là del Faro, saranno del pari di dritto Consulitori straordinarj il Presidente della Suprema Corte di Giustizia in Palermo, il Presidente della Gran Corte dei Conti, il Presidente della Gran Corte Civile, il Giudice di Monarchia, il Presidente della Pubblica Istruzione, i Direttori-Generali, il Soprintendente di Pubblica Salute, ed altri che crederemo opportuni fra i sudditi de' nostri reali dominj di quà e di là del Faro.

III. Il nostro Consigliere Ministro di Stato, Presidente della Consulta Generale del Regno, è autorizzato a chiamare alle sessioni delle Commissioni delle Consulte e della Consulta Generale, i cennati Consulitori straordinari che vi avranno voto al pari dei Consulitori ordinari.

IV. Ogni Consiglio Provinciale del regno alla fine delle sue sessioni ci presenterà una tema tra i principali proprietari che trovansi nello esercizio di Consiglieri Provinciali. Ci riserbiamo di prescegliere un Consigliere Provinciale per ciascuna provincia per intervenire nella Consulta in tutte le discussioni riguardanti l'amministrazione delle rispettive provincie.

V. I Ministri Segretari di Stato a portafoglio potranno, ove lo credono necessario, intervenire nelle sessioni della Consulta. Essi occuperanno il posto immediato dopo il Presidente-Generale della Consulta.

VI. Il nostro Consigliere Ministro di Stato, Presidente interino del Consiglio

dei Ministri, tutt' i nostri Ministri, ed il Luogotenente-Generale nei reali domini di là del Faro, sono incaricati della esecuzione di queste nostre sovrane disposizioni.

Napoli, 18 Gennajo, 1848.

(Firmato) FERDINANDO.

MARCHESI DI PIETRACATELLA.

(Translation.)

Ferdinand II, &c.

HAVING seen the organic law of the General Consulta of the Kingdom of the 14th of June, 1824 ;

Desiring that the discussion of affairs intrusted to its opinion or judgment, proceed with greater dispatch and maturity ;

We ordain as follows :

I. Consultors on service extraordinary have been appointed.

II. When our residence shall be on this side of the Faro in our dominions, the President of the Supreme Court of Justice, the President of the High Court of Accounts, the President of the Grand Civil Court, the Directors General, the President of Public Instruction, the Superintendent of Public Health, shall be by right extraordinary Consultors, and others whom we shall think fit among our subjects in our royal dominions on this side or beyond the Faro. In case, however, that our residence should be in our royal dominions beyond the Faro, the President of the Supreme Court of Justice in Palermo, the President of the High Court of Accounts, the President of the Grand Civil Court, the Judge of Monarchy, the President of Public Instruction, the Directors General, the Superintendent of Public Health, shall be by right Consultors extraordinary, and others that we may think fit among the subjects of our royal dominions on this or the other side of the Faro.

III. Our Councillor Minister of State, President of the Consulta General of the Kingdom, is authorized to summon to the sessions of the Commissioners of the Consultas and of the Consultas General, the above-mentioned extraordinary Consultors, who shall have equal votes with the ordinary Consultas.

IV. Every Provincial Council of the kingdom at the conclusion of its sessions, shall present to us (*una terna*) viz., three among the chief land-owners who may be in the exercise of Provincial Councillors. We reserve to ourselves the power of selecting a Provincial Councillor for each province, to assist at the Consulta in all discussions regarding the administration of the respective provinces.

V. The Ministers Secretaries of State charged with a portfolio shall have the power whenever they deem it necessary, to be present at the sessions of the Consulta. They shall occupy the seat immediately after that of the President General of the Consulta.

VI. Our Councillor Minister of State, President of the Council of Ministers, all our Ministers, and the Lieutenant-General in our royal dominions beyond the Faro, are charged with the execution of these our sovereign dispositions.

Naples, January 18, 1848.

(Signed) FERDINANDO.

MARCHESI DI PIETRACATELLA.

No. 4.—*Royal Ordinance constituting the Count of Aquila Viceroy of Sicily.*

Ferdinando II, &c.

I. NOMINIAMO Nostre Luogotenente-Generale in Sicilia il Real Principe Conte di Aquila, nostro amatissimo fratello.

II. Destiniamo Ministro alla sua immediatezza il Consigliere Ministro di Stato D. Antonio Lucchesi Palli, Principe di Campofranco.

III. Nominiamo Direttore dell' Interno, Affari Esteri, Agricoltura, Commercio e Lavori Pubblici, il Duca di Montalbo, al quale accordiamo il grado ed onore di Ministro.

IV. Nominiamo Direttore delle Finanze ed Affari Ecclesiastici, l'Avvocato Generale della Gran Corte de' Conti, D. Giuseppe Buongiardino.

V. Nominiamo Direttore di Grazia e Giustizia e Polizia, il Consultore D. Giovanni Cassisi.

VI. I Direttori qui nominati conserveranno i soldi ed averi che in atto godono.

VII. Il Nostro Consigliere Ministro di Stato, Presidente interino del Consiglio dei Ministri, tutt' i nostri Ministri, ed il Luogotenente-Generale in Sicilia, sono incaricati della esecuzione di queste nostre sovrane disposizioni.

Napoli, 18 Gennajo, 1848.

(Firmato)

FERDINANDO.

MARCHESE DI PIETRACATELLA.

(Translation.)

Ferdinand II, &c.

I. WE nominate our Lieutenant-General in Sicily, the Royal Prince Count of Aquila, our most beloved brother.

II. We appoint Prime Minister at his disposal, the Councillor Minister of State, Antonio Lucchese Palli, Prince of Campofranco.

III. We nominate Director of the Interior, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works, the Duke of Montalbo, to whom we grant the rank and honour of Minister.

IV. We nominate Director of the Finances and Ecclesiastical Affairs, the Advocate-General of the High Court of Accounts, Joseph Buongiardino.

V. We nominate Director of Grace and Justice and Police, the Consultor John Cassisi.

VI. The Directors here named shall have the pay and gratifications that they now enjoy.

VII. Our Councillor Minister of State, President of the Council of Ministers, all our Ministers, and the Lieutenant-General in Sicily, are charged with the execution of these our sovereign dispositions.

Naples, January 18, 1848.

(Signed)

FERDINANDO.

MARCHESE DI PIETRACATELLA.

No. 5.—*Law for the Censorship of the Press of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.*

Ferdinando II, &c.

VOLENDO stabilire in tutto il regno un compito ed uniforme sistema di revisione della stampa sia de' reali domini, sia dall' estero immessa, non che delle incesioni ed altri consimili lavori, e delle produzioni teatrali d'ogni specie, e volendo toglier di mezzo tutto ciò che di arbitrario abbia potuto col tempo introdursi nella pratica finora osservata, e confidar però il novello sistema di revisione ad apposite Commissioni di chiari e distinti uomini di lettere, ed in siffatta guisa agevolare l'incremento delle opere utili e d'ingegno;

Letti tutt' i decreti e regolamenti in varj tempi emanati sull' obbietto;

Veduto il relativo lavoro ed il parere della Consulta Generale del regno;

Ed udito infine il nostro Consiglio ordinario di Stato;

Abbiamo risoluto di sanzionare e sanzioniamo la seguente legge:

I. Verrà formata una Commissione superiore in Napoli, sotto la dipendenza diretta del nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato dell' Agricoltura e Commercio incaricato della Pubblica Istruzione, per l'esame preventivo della stampa di tutte le specie che si pubblicheranno ne' nostri reali domini e di quelle che s'introducano dall' estero, e del pari de' rami, figure, e d'ogni sorta di produzioni teatrali.

La detta Commissione sarà composta di venti revisori, siano ecclesiastici, siano laici, e preseduta dal Presidente della Pubblica Istruzione. Ed in Palermo anche una Commissione superiore sarà istituita, e composta di dodici

revisori ecclesiastici o laici, preseduta benanebe dal Presidente della Pubblica Istruzione ivi già stabilita.

Ed altresì per ciascuna provincia de' nostri reali domini di quà e di là dal Faro sarà formata egualmente nel capoluogo una Commissione dipendente dalle due Commissioni superiori composta di cinque revisori, siano ecclesiastici siano laici, di un distinto ecclesiastico che ne sarà il Vice-Presidente, e preseduta dall' Intendente.

II. Per deliberare nelle Commissioni dovrà esser presente la metà almeno de' componenti, cioè, dieci della Commissione superiore in Napoli, e sei nella Commissione superiore in Palermo. Nelle Commissioni provinciali tre dovranno esser presenti per deliberare.

Sono eccettuate dalla revisione delle Commissioni (e sarà serbato il sistema usato finora) le così dette memorie intorno ad affari pendenti presso la Consulta Generale e presso i Collegi giudiziari ed amministrativi del regno, ed al numero de' revisori prescritto per le due Commissioni superiori, saranno aggiunti due o più soggetti per la periodica revisione de' giornali esteri e del regno, come per la pubblicazione di ogni manifesto, avviso, o altro foglio di stampa.

IV. I revisori, tanto delle Commissioni superiori in Napoli e Palermo, quanto delle Commissioni ne' capoluoghi delle provincie, saranno da noi scelti e nominati sulla proposizione del nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato dell' Agricoltura e del Commercio incaricato della Pubblica Istruzione. Per la revisione teatrale vi sarà una speciale delegazione, e quei revisori che ne saranno incaricati dovranno assistere a tutte le prime rappresentazioni teatrali. Non si possono dare spettacoli nelle provincie che non sieno permessi nella capitale, ed in caso di qualche produzione nuova, non verrà rappresentata senza essersi preventivamente esaminata dai revisori de' teatri della capitale.

V. La durata dell' ufficio di revisore sarà per ora biennale, potendo essere dopo il biennio confermato nell'ufficio medesimo.

VI. E' permessa la stampa di qualunque scritto, non esclusi quelli che trattano di materie di pubblica amministrazione, mediante la precedente autorizzazione dell' autorità incaricata della revisione.

L'autorizzazione verrà concessa per la stampa di tutte le opere o scritti che non offendano la religione e i suoi ministri, e la pubblica morale, i dritti e le prerogative della sovranità, il Governo, la forma di esso ed i suoi funzionari, la dignità e le persone de' Regnanti, anche stranieri, le loro famiglie e i loro rappresentanti, e l'onore de' privati cittadini, e che non possano pregiudicare il regolare andamento del Governo ne' suoi rapporti, così interni che esterni.

VII. Gli atti del Governo non potranno esser riferiti prima della loro ufficiale pubblicazione.

VIII. Per l'istituzione de' giornali o altre pubblicazioni periodiche, sia che trattino di cose amministrative, sia che contengano articoli politici o altre materie qualunque, sarà necessaria l'autorizzazione del nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato dell' Agricoltura e del Commercio incaricato della Pubblica Istruzione, che egli darà dopo aver preso i nostri ordini.

La stessa autorizzazione sarà necessaria ai concessarij per cedere ad altri la concessione ottenuta, a pena della nullità della cessione.

IX. La domanda di autorizzazione per istituire giornali dovrà essere corredata da un programma, nel quale dovranno essere indicati il titolo del giornale, le materie da trattarvisi, i mezzi di sostener l'impresa, la persona che assumerà la direzione, il nome de' principali collaboratori, il numero delle periodiche pubblicazioni, e la quantità de' fogli di ciascuna di esse.

X. Il direttore di ogni giornale sarà esclusivamente responsabile dell' adempimento delle condizioni imposte da questa legge. Prima della pubblicazione del giornale sarà egli obbligato a depositare nella Real Cassa di Ammortazione la somma che verrà determinata nell' atto di autorizzazione. La quale somma non potrà esser minore di ducati quattrocento, nè maggiore di ducati ottocento.

I giornali puramente scientifici o letterarij sono dispensati dal deposito.

XI. Le opere o gli scritti da pubblicarsi saranno presentati agli uffici delle rispettive Commissioni.

XII. Uno de' membri assumerà l'esame del manoscritto, e vedendo non poterne esser dubbia l'approvazione, vi apporrà la sua firma in segno di autorizzazione, in caso diverso ne riferirà alla Commissione, la quale statuirà a maggioranza di voti.

XIII. Per ogni scritto che contenga articoli di politica, sarà sempre necessaria l'autorizzazione della Commissione a proposta del revisore delegato.

XIV. Un' opera rigettata da un ufficio di revisione non potrà essere presentata ad un' altra Commissione; l'approvazione che se ne ottenesse sarà di nessun effetto; e però la Commissione da cui un' opera o uno scritto sia stato rigettato, ne passerà avviso a tutte le altre Commissioni.

XV. L'approvazione data dalle Commissioni di revisione nel modo che è stato detto non recherà pregiudizio alle azioni di qualunque natura che pel fatto della seguita pubblicazione potesse competere ai terzi contro l'autore o pubblicatore dell' opera o scritto approvato.

XVI. Il proprietario della stamperia dalla quale verranno pubblicate con le stampe un' opera od uno scritto qualunque senza la richiesta approvazione, incorrerà nelle pene stabilite dalle leggi penali.

XVII. Il direttore di un giornale che pubblicherà in esso un articolo non approvato sulle materie delle quali con la presente legge è permessa la stampa, sarà condannato ad una multa da estendersi secondo le circostanze da cinquanta a duecento ducati.

In caso di recidiva sarà egli altresì condannato al carcere da quindici giorni a due mesi, ed alla sospensione della pubblicazione del giornale, da durare per un tempo non minore di sei mesi, non maggiore di un anno.

Ed in caso di novella recidiva, la condanna si estenderà inoltre alla soppressione del giornale, ed alla inabilitazione del condannato a dirigerne altri.

Se poi l'articolo pubblicato riguardasse alcuna delle materie delle quali è vietata la stampa, e di cui è parola nella seconda parte dell' Articolo VI, oltre la perdita della cauzione per la soppressione del giornale, il direttore dello stesso sarà tenuto inabile a dirigerne altro.

XVIII. Se la multa di che nell' Articolo precedente non sarà pagata entro otto giorni dal dì della notificazione della condanna, il pagamento di quella avrà luogo sulla somma depositata ai termini dell' Articolo X, e finchè il deposito non sarà reintegrato, la pubblicazione del giornale rimarrà sospesa.

XIX. Chiunque pubblicherà o farà pubblicare un' opera o uno scritto non approvato, col mezzo di una stampa clandestina, o con qualunque meccanismo sostituito alla stampa, sarà punito ai termini delle leggi penali.

XX. Alla stessa pena con adeguata proporzione ai casi ed alle circostanze, saranno condannati coloro che in qualunque modo si saranno resi complici delle trasgressioni di che nel precedente Articolo.

XXI. Ne' casi previsti negli Articoli XVII e XIX saranno confiscate tutte le copie complete ed incomplete, stampate in contravvenzione alle prescrizioni di questa nostra legge.

XXII. Nel caso previsto dall' Articolo XIX si perderanno il torchio o i torchii, caratteri, ed ogni altro istrumento di cui siasi fatto uso per la trasgressione.

XXIII. Ove l'opera stampata contenga alterazioni del manoscritto stato approvato, il trasgressore soggiacerà alle pene prescritte per la pubblicazione di opera non approvate.

XXIV. Indipendentemente dalle pene stabilite nei precedenti Articoli, resterà salva al Ministero pubblico e ad ogni interessato l'azione penale o civile che potesse loro competere in riguardo alla natura della cose contenute nell' opera o scritti pubblicati senza approvazione.

XXV. Le contravvenzioni alla presente legge apparteneranno alla cognizione dei tribunali ordinarij.

XXVI. Oltre il numero delle copie da darsi per ogni pubblicazione fatta col mezzo della stampa a norma de' regolamenti in vigore, anche un altro esemplare dovrà darsi per rimanere presso la Commissione che ne avrà fatta la revisione.

XXVII. Il nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato dell' Agricoltura e del Commercio, incaricato dell' Istruzione Pubblica, presenterà subito alla nostra approvazione, un regolamento per la più facile esecuzione della presente legge.

XXVIII. Tutti i precedenti decreti e regolamenti contrarj a questa legge rimangono abrogati.

Vogliamo e comandiamo che questa nostra legge da noi sottoscritta e riconosciuta dal nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato di Grazia e Giustizia, munita dell' nostro gran sigillo, e contrassegnata dal nostro Consiglier Ministro di Stato, Presidente interino del Consiglio de' Ministri, e registrata e depositata nel Ministero e Real Segreteria di Stato della Presidenza del Consiglio

de' Ministri, si pubblici con le ordinarie solennità per tutt' i nostri reali dominj, per mezzo delle corrispondenti autorità, le quali dovranno prenderne particolar registro ed assicurarne l'adempimento.

Il nostro Consigliere Ministro di Stato, Presidente interino del Consiglio de' Ministri, è specialmente incaricato di vegliare alla sua pubblicazione.

Napoli, 19 Gennaio, 1848.

(Firmato) FERDINANDO.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato di Grazia e Giustizia,
NICCOLA PARISHO.

Il Consigliere Ministro di Stato, Presidente interino del
Consiglio de' Ministri,
MARCHESE DI PIETRACATELLA.

Ferdinand II, &c.

DESIRING to establish throughout the kingdom a perfect and uniform system of revision of the press in the royal dominions, and likewise on printed works introduced from foreign countries, as also on engravings and similar works, and on theatrical productions of every kind, and desiring to remove everything arbitrary that may have introduced itself with time into the practice hitherto observed, and to confide also the new system of revision to competent Commissions of clear and distinguished men of letters, and in such manner facilitate the improvement of useful works and works of art and science;

Having read all the decrees and regulations issued at various periods on the subject; having seen the relative labour and opinion of the General Deliberation of the kingdom;

And having heard finally our ordinary Council of State;

We have resolved to sanction and do sanction the following laws:

I. There shall be formed a superior Commission in Naples, under the direction of our Minister Secretary of State of Agriculture and Commerce charged with the Public Instruction for the preventive examination of the Press of all kinds of works that shall be published in our royal dominions and of all those that shall be introduced from abroad, and likewise of engravings, figures, and lithographic productions, and of all kinds of theatrical productions.

The said Commission shall be composed of twenty revisors, either ecclesiastical or laical, and presided over by the President of Public Instruction. And in Palermo also, a superior Commission shall be instituted and composed of twelve revisors, ecclesiastics or laics, likewise presided over by the President of Public Instruction already there established.

And in like manner for each province of our royal dominions on this side and beyond the Faro, shall be formed in the chief city a Commission dependent on two superior Commissions, composed of five revisors, either ecclesiastics or laics; by a distinguished ecclesiastic who shall be Vice-President of it, and presided over by the Intendent.

II. In order to deliberate in the Commission, there must be present at least one-half of the members; viz., ten of the superior Commission in Naples, and six of the superior Commission in Palermo. In the Provincial Commissions, three must be present in order to deliberate.

III. Are exempted from the revision of the Commissions (and the system hitherto in use shall be observed) papers called memorials respecting affairs pending in the General Consulta and in the Judiciary Colleges and Administrative Colleges of the kingdom, and to the number of revisors prescribed for the two superior Commissions, shall be added two or more persons for the periodical revision of foreign journals and those of the kingdom, as well as for the publication of every manifest, notice, or other printed paper.

IV. The revisors as well of the Commissions in Naples and in Palermo, as of those in the chief cities of the provinces shall be chosen by us, and nominated on the proposition of our Minister Secretary of State for Agriculture and Commerce charged with the Public Instruction. For the theatrical revision there shall be a special delegation, and those revisors that shall be charged with it must be present at all first representations. No plays can be given in the provinces that are not permitted in the capital; and in case of any new produc-

tion, it shall not be performed until it has been previously examined by the revisors of the theatres of the capital.

V. The duration of the office of revisor shall be for the present biennial, being capable after that period of being confirmed in the same.

VI. The printing of whatsoever writing is permitted without exclusion of those that treat of public administration, subject to the preceding sanction of the authority charged with the revision.

The sanction will be conceded for printing all works or writings that do not offend religion and its ministers, and public morals, the rights and prerogatives of sovereignty, the Government, the form of it and its functionaries, the dignity and person of those reigning, even of foreign Sovereigns, their families and representatives, and the honour of private citizens, and which cannot prejudice the regular proceeding of the Government in its relations as well internal as abroad.

VII. The acts of the Government cannot be referred to until after their official publication.

VIII. For the institution of journals or other periodical publications, whether they treat of administrative affairs, or contain political articles, or whatsoever other matters, the authorization of our Minister Secretary of State of Agriculture and Commerce charged with the Public Instruction, will be necessary, which he will grant after having taken our orders so to do.

The same authorization will be necessary to concessioners in order to transfer to others the concession obtained, under penalty of nullity of the concession.

IX. The demand of authorization for instituting journals must be supported with a statement in which must be named the title of the journal, the matter to be treated in it, the means of sustaining the undertaking, the person that shall assume the direction of it, the names of the chief writers employed, the number of the periodical publications, and the quantity of sheets in each of them.

X. The director of each journal shall be exclusively responsible for the fulfilment of the conditions imposed by this law. Previous to the publication of the journal, he shall be obliged to deposit in the Royal Bank of Deposits, the sum that shall be fixed in the act of authorization. This sum shall not be less than four hundred ducats (about £66), nor more than eight hundred ducats (about £132).

Journals purely scientific or literary are exempted from the deposit.

XI. The works or manuscripts to be published shall be presented to the offices of the respective Commissions.

XII. One of the members shall undertake the examination of the manuscript, and seeing that there can be no doubt of its approval, he will sign it in proof of his sanction, otherwise he will refer it to the Commission who will decide the question by a majority of votes.

XIII. For every writing containing political articles, there shall always be required the sanction of the Commission on the proposition of the delegated revisor.

XIV. A work rejected by one office of revision cannot be presented to another Commission; the approval which may be obtained for it will be of no effect; and the Commission by whom a work or manuscript shall have been rejected shall give notice of it to all the other Commissions.

XV. The approval given by the Commissions of Revision in the manner already stated, shall not create prejudice to the operations of any kind which from the fact of the subsequent publication might affect third parties against the author or publisher of the work or manuscript so approved.

XVI. The proprietor of a printing office by whom shall be published a work or manuscript of whatever nature it may be, without the prescribed approbation, shall incur the penalties established by the penal laws.

XVII. The director of a journal who shall publish in it an article not approved on the subjects of which by the present law the printing is permitted, shall be sentenced to a penalty to extend according to circumstances from fifty to two hundred ducats. In case of a second transgression, he shall be likewise condemned to prison for a period of from fifteen days to two months, and to the suspension of the publication of the journal, to continue for a space not less than six months, nor more than a year. And in case of another transgression,

the sentence shall be extended besides to the suppression of the journal, and the inability of the condemned party to direct another.

If however the article published should regard or relate to any of the matters the printing of which is prohibited, as recited in the second part of Article VI, besides the forfeiture of the caution money on the suppression of the journal, the director of the same shall be considered incapacitated to direct another.

XVIII. If the penalty mentioned in the preceding Article shall not be paid within eight days from the day of the notification to the person sentenced, the payment of it shall be made from the sum deposited according to Article X. and until the deposit money shall be made up again, the publication of the journal remain suspended.

XIX. Whoever shall publish or cause to be published by means of a clandestine press, a work or manuscript not approved, or by any mechanism substituted for printing, shall be punished according to the terms of the penal laws.

XX. To the same punishment adequately proportioned to the cases and circumstances shall those be condemned who in any manner are implicated in the transgressions mentioned in the preceding Article.

XXI. In the cases provided for in Articles XVII and XIX, all complete copies will be confiscated, and incomplete likewise, which are printed in contravention of the regulations prescribed in this our law.

XXII. In the case provided for by Article XIX, the type or types, the letters and any other instrument used for the transgression shall be forfeited.

XXIII. Whenever the work printed shall contain alterations of the manuscript approved, the transgressor shall be subject to the penalties subscribed for the publication of works not approved.

XXIV. Independently of the penalties established in the preceding Articles, the right is reserved to the public Ministry and every other interested party to institute any penal or civil action in respect of the matter contained in the work or manuscript published without approbation.

XXV. The contraventions to the present law shall appertain to the consequence of the ordinary tribunals.

XXVI. Besides the number of copies to be given by every publication issued by the press, according to the existing regulations, another copy must be given, to remain with the Commission which shall have made the revision.

XXVII. Our Minister Secretary of State of Agriculture and Commerce, charged with the Public Instruction, shall immediately present for our approbation a regulation for the most easy execution of the present law.

XXVIII. All the preceding decrees and regulations contrary to this law remain abrogated.

We will and command that this our law subscribed by us, and acknowledged by our Minister Secretary of State of Grace and Justice, bearing our great seal, and countersigned by our Councillor Minister of State, President of the Council of Ministers, and registered and deposited in the Ministerial and Royal Offices of State of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, be published with the usual solemnities throughout our royal dominions through the corresponding authorities, who will take a particular note of it, and insure the fulfilment of it.

Our Councillor Minister of State, President of the Council of Ministers, is specially charged to attend to its publication.

Naples, January 19, 1848.

(Signed)

FERDINANDO.

The Minister of Grace and Justice,

NICCOLA PARISI.

The President of the Council of Ministers,

MARCHESI DI PIETRACATELLA.

No. 22.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 31, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 15th instant, forwarding a copy of the letter you addressed to the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's Naval Forces in the Mediterranean, I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve the course you have pursued on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 23.

The Marquis of Normanby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 1.)

My Lord,

Paris, January 31, 1848.

A TELEGRAPHIC message bringing intelligence from Naples of the 24th instant was yesterday interrupted by the dusk. It had begun by stating that the Sicilians had rejected the propositions brought them from Naples, and had asked for the Constitution of 1812.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NORMANBY.

No. 24.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 2.)

(Extract.)

Naples, January 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, in reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, respecting an outrage offered to the British arms at Palermo, that I have not been able to push the matter on, in consequence of the revolution at Palermo, which has suspended all correspondence between Her Majesty's Consul and this Legation.

I have sent an instruction to Mr. Goodwin, directing him not to put up the escutcheon, but to distinguish his house by a small flag fixed in the same place, for the convenience of Her Majesty's subjects in the existing dangerous troubles.

I shall not say any more on this subject at the present moment, for until complete tranquillity be restored there can be no question of reparation on the part of the Sicilian authorities.

No. 25.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 2.)

(Extract.)

Naples, January 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Messina, inclosing a communication from the Intendente of that province, informing him of the intention of the Military Commandant to declare Messina in a state of siege at the first occasion of an assemblage of persons guilty of seditious cries. Mr. Barker's letter also contains an expostulation from Her Majesty's Consulate, in answer to this communication; and in Mr. Barker's subsequent despatch inclosed herewith, there is an assurance that the property and persons of foreign subjects will be respected.

Your Lordship will observe however by the inclosed letters from Captain Codrington, which are of an unofficial nature, though I venture to

submit them to your Lordship's attention, that the Commandant's assurances have not inspired that officer with much confidence, and that as he considers the danger of an outbreak to be imminent, he intends to move his vessel into the harbour so as to be easily accessible to the British residents.

I have in my instructions of this day's date approved of his determination, and authorized him, in placing his vessel between the citadel and the quarter inhabited by the English merchants, to protest against the commencement of a fire against the said quarter until all Her Majesty's subjects, with some of their portable property, have attained a position of security. This is the more necessary owing to the inclemency of the weather, which would render Her Majesty's ship almost inaccessible to the fugitives, if she remained in the roads. I have also instructed Captain Codrington to use his influence with the commandant to hinder a bombardment of the Marina of Messina, which is chiefly composed of British property, unless an insurrectionary force should select that esplanade as a position of offence against the citadel, in which case of course the "Thetis" would have to retreat, if the weather permitted it, and to leave the contending parties to their hostile operations.

I have addressed Her Majesty's Consul in the same sense; but I have empowered Captain Codrington to communicate directly with the Military Commandant.

I submit these precautions to your Lordship in the hope that they will be deemed sufficient for the protection of Her Majesty's subjects.

An opportunity of communication with Messina offering itself to-day, I thought it right to address the accompanying note to the Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing him of the nature of my instructions to Her Majesty's Consul and Captain Codrington, and as time pressed and his Excellency was not at home, I looked for him at the Palace, where the Ministers have been in conference since an early hour this morning. His Excellency left the Council and saw me in an adjoining closet, where I delivered him the above-mentioned note, explaining its import.

Prince Scilla carried the note into the Council room, and after a short interval he again appeared and informed me a reply would be returned, of which a copy is inclosed.

I seized the opportunity to engage the Minister for Foreign Affairs in a conversation on the affairs of Palermo, intimating to his Excellency how desirable it was that Her Majesty's Legation should be put in possession of some information regarding the same, for that all regular correspondence was cut off, and that three steam-vessels had reached the capital without letters to the foreign Missions from their respective Consuls. I submitted to Prince Scilla that rumours of an alarming nature circulated; that I was assured the city had suffered a cannonade, and that Her Majesty's subjects had taken refuge on board the "Bulldog" steam-frigate, perhaps with a loss of life, certainly with a great sacrifice of convenience and property; that I was under the obligation to report to Her Majesty's Government and Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker on these matters; and that as his Excellency alone could confirm or appease my apprehensions, to him I looked for some communication of the real state of events.

Prince Scilla told me abruptly that it was quite impossible; to which I answered that I did not demand it as a right but solicited it as a favour, and that I should repeat my solicitation in a written form.

The captain of the French mail packet has just informed me that Her Majesty's squadron has arrived in Malta, and that in passing through the Straits of Messina he observed the masts of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," within the harbour as he thought.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Consul Barker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Messina, January 13, 1848.

THE inclosed are two copies of correspondence between the Intendente of Messina and myself.

A copy of the Intendente's letter has been sent on to Rear-Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis in Malta by a Sicilian boat.

The reply to the letter of the Intendente will show your Lordship the state our commerce and our persons are in.

There are eight British vessels in port.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. W. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

The Intendente of Messina to Consul Barker.

Signore,

Messina, 12 Gennajo, 1848.

IL Generale Commandante delle armi con suo uffizio di pari data mi ha fatto conoscere "che alla prima riunione di gente chi facesse grida sediziose o clamori (che il ciel non faccia mai verificare), la piazza si considererà nello stato di assedio giusta il prescritto nel No. 110 della Reale Ordinanza di Piazza annessa nel Real Decreto del 26 Gennajo, 1831."

Mi ha chiesto medesimamente esso Signore Generale di renderne con sapevoli i Consoli Esteri qui stanziati onde comunicassero quelle prevenzioni che crederanno ai loro connazionali e chiedessero nell'interesse della garanzia lor commessa per le persone e per le sostanze (nel caso, Dio non voglia, si avesse a far uso della forza), quelle disposizioni di cui avesser d'uopo per esser secondate, purchè fossero nella linea della regolarità.

Ed io mi onoro dargliene conoscenza per gli effetti di risulta pregandola ad avvisarmi ricezione di questo uffizio.

Il Segretario-Generale Funzte. da Intendente,
(Firmato) M. CELESTI.

(Translation.)

Sir

Messina, January 12, 1848.

THE General Commandant, in his letter of this day's date has informed me "that at the first assemblage of people uttering seditious cries and clamours (which may heaven prevent), the town will be declared in a state of siege according to the tenor of No. 110 of the Royal Ordinanza di Piazza published with the Royal Decree of January 26, 1831."

The General at the same time has requested me to acquaint the Foreign Consuls resident here, that they may give this information to their countrymen and apply, in virtue of the guarantee afforded them for the safety of English subjects and their effects (in case, which may heaven prevent, it should be necessary to use force), for such measures as they may think necessary for their assistance, provided their demands be consistent with the law.

I have the honour to make this communication to you and request you will acknowledge the receipt of my letter.

The Secretary-General,
(Signed) M. CELESTI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 25.

Consul Barker to the Intendente of Messina.

Signore,

Messina, 13 Gennajo, 1848.

NELL' accusarle la recezione del di lei officio di jeri, con cui mi annunzia le disposizioni date dal Comandante-Generale le armi prescriventi "di doversi considerare la città in istato di assedio alla prima riunione di gente che facesse grida sediziose e clamori, a' termini dell' Articolo 110 dell' Ordinanza di Piazza, ed in cui medesimo m'invita a comunicare a sudditi della nazione che rappresento qui stanziati le prevenzioni che crederò coavenevoli per chiedere nello interesse delle garantigie a me commesse per le persoe e per le sostanze quelle disposizioni di cui avesser d'uopo," io mi onoro manifestarle quanto appresso.

Se il Comandante-Generale le armisi è creduto autorizzato a considerare questa piazza in istato di assedio dal momento istesso in cui una riunione di gente alzasse grida sediziose e clamori, invocando l' Articolo 110 dell' Ordinanza di Piazza (il quale per altro tratta di sola dichiarazioe in istato di guerra), certa cosa ella è che questo tale momento aoa può essere coa anticipazione determinata d'alcuno per savio che sia; nè il Signor Comandante li determina da savio che egli è, perciocchè il temuto avvenimento dipendendo da iacogniti ed eventuali cagioni può verificarsi tanto oggi che domani o a più giorai o mesi ovvero ancora non accadere giammai.

Eppure egli abbandona a me ed a ciascuno dei sudditi della mia nazione il carico di determinarlo e di prendere le opportune misure di precauzione che ci ripromette. In questa posizione di cose ogni uomo prudente vorrà da quest' ora in poi affrettarsi a reclamare le garantigie che gli son dovute per la persona e per i beni richiedendone la coaservazioe e custodia ai termini dei trattati. Secondando cotali richieste (come lo si deve infallibilmente), quale trambusto, quali sconcerti, quali disordini di ecoomia domestica e mercantile qui non accaderebbero! Ed ecco, la nazione che io rappresento conta No. 100 circa sudditi qui residenti nella maggior parte coa famiglia più o meno numerosa, coa istabilimenti attivi di commercio, possessioni di beni immobili, mobili, legni di mare e mercanzie di valore più o meno urgente. Avvertendo tutti costoro del pericolo che loro sovrasta per la dichiarazione di assedio sopra mentovata, ed offrendo loro le ripromessi garantigie ciascun di essi mi richiederà (ed io a lei) i luoghi di ricovero e di deposito della sua persona e dei suoi beai oade averne sicurezza ed incolumità? Appena che da lei e dal Signor Comandante le armi mi verranno tali siti indicati, si darà mano da lutti tumultuariamente alle trasmigrazioai, ai trasporti, ed ai depositi coa uno strepito ua disordine inevitabile in simili contingenze che spargerebbero tale allarme per la città da partorire per se stesse quelle sediziose grida cui il Signor Comandante si propone di evitare.

Questo sarebbe adunque ua rimedio intempestivo ovvero peggior del male che si procura di reprimere. Azzardo pur di osservare che una sola e la meno importante classe di cittadini i quali rompessero in sediziose grida, potendosi agevolmente reprimere con bene ordiaata pubblica forza, non darebbero sufficiente motivo a dichiarare la città in istato di assedio, cioè dire, immergere una popolazione di 80,000 abitanti negli orrori di una guerra civile. Ad ogni modo, e malgrado le osservazioai da me superiormente fatte, io noa debbo omettere siccome pratico, di richiedere da lei e dal Signor Comandante le armi, la indicazione dei luoghi di sicurezza atti a trasportarli e ricoverare quauto prima tanto le persone quanto i beni mobili dei sudditi della nazione che rappresento, e quanto agli stabilimento e legni di mare sieno carichi sieno in procinto di esserlo, le misure di precauzione che stimeranno opportune a preservarle da qualunque daaao, reclamando sopra tuttocciò gh ajuti e la protezioe che il Re ed i trattati hanno ci assicurati.

La prego, &c.

(Firmato) W. W. BARKER.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Messina, January 13, 1848.

IN acknowledging the receipt of your despatch of yesterday's date, by which you communicate to me the resolutions taken by the General Commandant, stating "that on the first assemblage of people uttering seditious cries, the city is to be considered in a state of siege, according to the terms of Article 110 of the *Ordinanza di Piazza*, and inviting me at the same time to communicate with the subjects of the nation which I represent, in order that I may demand the adoption of those measures best calculated for the fulfilment of the objects of the guarantee of life and property committed to my care," I have the honour to make the following statement.

If the General Commandant has considered himself authorized to declare this town in a state of siege on the first assemblage of people uttering seditious cries, in virtue of Article 110 of the *Ordinanza di Piazza* (which however only applies to a declaration in case of war), certain it is that it is impossible to fix beforehand the time when this occurrence will take place; nor can the Commandant himself, wise as he is, determine it; for this event being the consequence of unknown and eventual causes, may happen to-day or to-morrow, in a few days or months, or never happen at all.

The Military Governor, notwithstanding, leaves to me and to each of the British subjects the care of fixing the time of such an event, and of taking measures of precaution which he promises to afford.

In this state of things every prudent man will hasten to claim the guarantee which he has a right to expect for his life and property, according to the terms of treaties. In granting these demands (as it must necessarily be done), what confusion, what disorders of a commercial and domestic nature would not occur! In fact the nation which I represent numbers about 100 subjects residing here, having families more or less numerous, commercial establishments in activity, and property of every description. Were I to give notice to all these persons, of the danger which hangs over them in consequence of the declaration of the siege above mentioned, and offering them the promised guarantee, every one of them would ask of me and I of you, where the places of refuge are and where they can deposit their persons and goods in safety? As soon as you or the General Commandant indicate these places, there will be such a rush to the ships, the deposits, &c., causing such disorders, tumults, and alarm in the city, as will lead to the seditious cries which it is his object to prevent.

This would therefore be a remedy worse than the evil to be avoided. I venture to observe also, that the fact of one class, and that the least important of the citizens, uttering seditious cries (which can easily be prevented by a well-regulated force), is not sufficient reason to declare the town in a state of siege, and thus deliver a population of 80,000 inhabitants to all the horrors of a civil war. Under any circumstances, however, I cannot omit to request of you and of the General Commandant to inform me of the places of refuge where British subjects can place their persons and personal goods in safety; and with respect to the establishments and ships laden or about to be loaded, I must request to be made acquainted with those measures of precaution which you may think proper to adopt, claiming with reference to these points, the assistance and protection which the King and the treaties have guaranteed.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

W. W. BARKER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 25.

Consul Barker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Messina, January 15, 1848.

I HAVE just received your Lordship's despatch of the 14th instant, informing me of a serious outbreak having taken place at Palermo.

I have to state that this news has been anticipated by the Messinese as a signal for a general insurrection, which there is no doubt will very soon take place.

By the copy of the official letter from the Intendente inclosed in my despatch of the 13th instant, your Lordship will perceive the intention of the General in the event of a revolt taking place. It is therefore the wish of the British merchants and residents, that Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" may be permitted to be stationed here for the protection of British subjects.

I will avail myself of every opportunity to inform your Lordship fully of the movements and designs of the disaffected party at Messina.

I beg to inclose the Intendente's reply to my official letter of the 13th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. W. BARKER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 25.

The Intendente of Messina to Consul Barker.

Signore,

Messina, 15 Gennaio, 1848.

IL Signor Generale Commandante le armi, cui feci conoscere quanto da molti Signori Consoli esteri erasi osservato intorno alle determinazioni da esso Signor Generale prese, nel caso (che non avvenga giammai) che si udissero grida sediziose o clamorose, mi ha manifestato con sua carta ufficiale di jeri, che egli non può astenersi di tenere per sua regola negli eventi, le ordinanze militari, e che si mai si avverasse la sventura (che la mercede di Dio e dell' opera prudente ed efficace de' buoni sperasi non doversi giammai deplorare per il bene di sì bel paese), allora i Signori Consoli e gli esteri che qui risiedono troverebbero nel Signor Generale ogni agevolazione, e, son sue parole—"il fermo pensiero di serbare tutta la possibile delicatezza, e se sia ancora squisitezza, verso i sudditi delle nazioni strette a Sua Maestà il Re (D. G.) con amichevoli vineoli."

M'affretto manifestare ciò a lei perchè ne abbia conoscenza, sicuro che in qualunque eventualità ella troverà me sempre disposto ad ogni agevolazione e riguardo.

L'Intendente,

(Firmato) DUCA DI BAGNOLI.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Messina, January 15, 1848.

THE General Commandant, to whom yesterday I made known the observations of many of the Foreign Consuls upon the determination announced by him, in the case (which God forbid) of the utterance of seditious and clamorous vociferations, has replied to me, in an official letter of yesterday's date, that he cannot do less under such circumstances than adapt his conduct to the tenor of the military laws, and that in case such a calamity should take place (which it is hoped, through the mercy of God and the prudent and efficacious counsel of the good, will never have to be deplored in so beautiful a city), that then the Consuls and foreigners residing here will find in the General every assistance, and to make use of his own words, "the firm determination of preserving all

possible delicacy towards the subjects of nations linked with His Majesty the King in friendly bonds."

I hasten to give you this information, and to assure you that under all circumstances you will find me always ready to afford you every assistance and attention.

(Signed) DUKE DE BAGNOLI.

Inclosure 6 in No. 25.

Captain Codrington to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

"Thetis," Messina, January 15, 1848.

I WRITE a line to tell you of our arrival here late in the evening of the 13th. I find all quiet here, that is the stillness which is before a storm; for with misery among the people, no trade, no business going on in the town (for most of the shops are shut and very few people seen in the streets), it would be folly to suppose things peaceable. I conclude that the people are waiting to hear what Palermo does or what it probably did on the 12th, before they break out. Probably if Palermo has remained quiet, Messina may put off its movement some time longer; but if the Government do not relieve the people from some of the pressure that is grinding them down, something must soon happen in spite of castles, forts, and troops. No people can stand it. I have no idea of any body of insurgents taking the castle or materially weakening the military position of the King's force here. Nor do I think the soldiers can prevent the insurgents gaining and keeping the town if they choose to do so and have any nerve. The castle may ruin the front row of houses on the Marina; but under the lee of that row or its ruins (stone, &c.) the rest of the town will be protected from the fire of the castle. As to the Military Governor threatening to fire on the town when he hears any seditious cries, that would bring a great responsibility on him, whatever orders he may have. He was out when I called; but I will call again and will talk to him of the inutility as well as impolicy of such a proceeding, or of his "state of siege" threat. If nothing happens after we hear from Palermo you will soon see me back.

Inclosure 7 in No. 25.

Captain Codrington to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

*"Thetis," Messina,
Saturday Evening, January 15, 1848.*

I HAD just sent off my letter to you through the Consul this morning, and now the same evening I receive yours of the 14th, telling me of the reported events at Palermo. Nothing was known of all that here at 4 P.M., at least to the public; though I think I could trace in the authorities I visited a secret uneasiness. Since I returned on board, the Neapolitan steamer came in, which I conclude brought your letter. I remarked that this steamer, instead of coming straight to the port, kept well out and only approached it from the east, bearing the castle first (till she found all was safe), as if she expected to find the town in the possession of the revolvers.

A steamer yesterday had brought the new Intendente. Prince Louis also came in that steamer. It is supposed his presence is to act as a means of securing the fidelity of the troops to the Royal cause.

Since closing my letter to-day I waited on the Governor (the General). I spoke to him about his letter to the Consuls announcing his resolution of inflicting "a state of siege" on the town, in case of any "seditious cries." His explanation has qualified this a little, both verbally to me in the presence of Mr. Barker junior, and also by letter to the Consuls

since received. Events that seem fast coming on will soon decide what will be. The authorities also to whom I have spoken, assure me they do not intend to fire on the town unless it begins on them, in fact they promise not to be the first to fire. But if the insurgents begin to fire on them, they say they must and will answer.

But this does not quite clear up a point which to-day I thought it rather too premature to moot, whether a real insurrection of the people and an attack by them of some detached work or outpost would be considered sufficient ground for the citadel firing on the Marina opposite to it. I do not think they will do it. I can see no good in it. It would do immense harm, not only to private property and foreigners, but also to the King's cause. The feelings of everybody would at once abandon the King's side. As a military question, such a proceeding, unless against a body of armed men planting guns against the citadel (an act of folly), would be useless. The row of houses on the Marina (stone), or their ruins if destroyed, would perfectly protect any body of men who would assemble in the Via Ferdinando, a long broad street running parallel to the Marina and close to it. In short, as I detailed in this morning's letter, the citadel cannot take the town or drive insurgents out of it, nor can I think insurgents can take the citadel. Even if the King sends a large force here as a reinforcement, he will only have begun his work. He may ruin the town of Messina, but his reign over Sicily will be gone. He at present does, or rather did, levy no less than 17 per cent. on the land, besides the numerous taxes on its produce, making up 28 or 30 per cent. You may imagine the burden this becomes on the peasantry and occupiers in the country. At the last visit his tax-gatherers paid to the country to collect, they were told in civil but unmistakeable terms, that for this time they would be allowed to return safe to Messina (minus the money of course), but if ever they, the peasantry and occupiers of land, caught them coming out again on such an errand, they would not find their way back to Messina. These countrypeople have now tasted the pleasure of saving that 17 per cent. to themselves, and will not readily pay it back again. How is the King to enforce that? Can he spare troops enough for the whole country? Even if he could spare them, can a country so intersected as Sicily with gullies and torrents and good defensible positions, and a wild and active population well roused, fail to baffle his forces? He may act on the coast line, but the interior will baffle him. He will do no good in Sicily unless he does (and that instantly) make some change in his men and in his measures, and even for that it is almost too late.

I expect the Admiral to be at Malta on the 15th (to-day) or to-morrow. I fully expect an outbreak the moment the Palermo breaking out is known. I intend remaining here as yet, and shall probably move into the harbour to-morrow, to be at hand to protect our countrymen if necessary. The Palermo stroke has been struck, I conclude, but it is in the first moments of the striking that is the greatest need of this ship's presence to protect our countrymen and their property.

I should miss the vital moment at each place were I to go to Palermo now. I hope also that a man-of-war is there; I know none is here but "Thetis." If anything comes here from Malta, if steamer, I send her on thither, if sailer, I keep her here and go on to Palermo.

Inclosure 8 in No. 25.

Lord Napier to Captain Codrington.

Sir,

Naples, January 18, 1848.

IN consequence of a letter from Her Majesty's Consul apprizing me that on the first tumultuous assemblage guilty of seditious cries in the town of Messina, it is to be declared in a state of siege and treated accordingly, and as such a declaration might involve the bombardment of the city and the destruction of the lives and property of Her Majesty's sub-

jects there residing, I have to request you to move Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Thetis" into the port of Messina and place her between the citadel and the Marina, the quarter principally inhabited by Her Majesty's subjects. You are authorized to protest against the commencement of any fire from the castle upon the Marina and to impede the same, until the persons of Her Majesty's subjects shall be removed to a place of safety with such part of their property as may be essential to their convenience, and to use all your influence with the General Commandant to prevent any firing upon the Marina, which would appear in a military sense to be useless, unless that quarter should be occupied by an insurgent force as an offensive position against the castle.

I recommend you to correspond directly with the Military Commandant, to save time and trouble.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 9 in No. 25.

Lord Napier to Consul Barker.

Sir,

Naples, January 18, 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 13th instant, inclosing copy of a communication which you have received from the Intendente of Messina, covering an intimation on the part of the General Commandant, that on the first tumultuous assemblage in the city guilty of seditious cries, the city will be declared in a state of siege.

As such a declaration would probably involve the commencement of a fire from the citadel upon the town, and produce thereby the ruin of a great deal of British property and even perhaps menace the personal safety of Her Majesty's subjects, I have protested against such a measure until the persons and part of the moveable property of Her Majesty's subjects shall be removed to a place of security; and I have directed Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" to move into the harbour and place himself between the castle and the Marina, and moreover to use his influence with the General Commandant to prevent all fire upon the Marina, which as a military measure would seem to be useless, unless that quarter be occupied by an insurgent force as a post of offence against the citadel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 10 in No. 25.

Lord Napier to Prince Scilla.

Naples, January 18, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has just received from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Messina copy of an intimation from the General Commandant of the Royal Forces, that on the first assemblage of persons in the city of a tumultuous character and guilty of seditious cries, the city will be declared in a state of siege and treated accordingly.

The Undersigned has the honour to submit to Prince Scilla, that such a course on the part of the General Commandant, without the adoption of preliminary preventive precautions, would be cruel and perhaps ineffectual, and would menace the most serious injury to the persons and property of British subjects resident at Messina. The declaration of a state of siege would perhaps involve the bombardment of the city from the castle, and as the latter is placed exactly in face of the Marina, a quarter in a great measure composed of the residences of British merchants and their warehouses, Her Britannic Majesty's subjects would be the first to suffer.

The Undersigned will therefore direct the Commander of Her Ma-

jesty's ship "Thetis," now at Messina, to move into the harbour, and protest against the commencement of any fire upon the Marina until all the English families and such part of their moveable property as is most easily transported shall be conveyed to a place of security; and Captain Codrington will be also instructed to use his influence with the General Commandant to prevent all fire upon that quarter, unless, which the Undersigned trusts is impossible, a revolted force should adopt that position as one of offence against the castle.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 11 in No. 25.

Prince Scilla to Lord Napier.

Napoli, Gennaio 18 del 1848.

IL Sottoscritto, Consigliere Ministro di Stato incaricato del Portafoglio degli Affari Esteri, ha ricevuto la nota che Lord Napier, Incaricato di Affari di Sua Maestà Britannica, ha diretto sotto questa data, con cui gli domanda che nel caso in cui la città di Messina fosse messa in istato di assedio dal Governo del Rè, si dassero le opportune disposizioni onde le persone e le proprietà de' sudditi di Sua Maestà Britannica residenti in quella città non avessero a soffrire, qualora si facesse fuoco sulla stessa.

Il Sottoscritto in pronta replica si dà la premura di manifestare al Signor Incaricato di Affari di Sua Maestà Britannica, che da' rapporti venuti dal Comandante delle armi in Messina, rilevasi che lo stesso avea già dato gli opportuni avvisi ufficiali a' Consoli di tutte le straniere nazioni residenti in quella città, invitandoli ad intendersi seco lui per le misure da adottarsi per garantire le persone e le proprietà de' loro connazionali nel caso possibile di doversi usare di rigore contro de' sediziosi tumulti nella detta città di Messina.

Posto ciò Lord Napier può esser sicuro che il Real Governo e le sue autorità sono animate da ferma volontà di usare di tutti i mezzi in loro potere per far sì che i sudditi Britannici e tutti gli altri stranieri vengano posti in sicurezza in una circostanza che si può le sperare non dovere aver luogo.

Egli intanto profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PRINCIPE DI SCILLA DUCA
DI S. CRISTINA.

(Translation.)

Naples, January 18, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has received the note which Lord Napier has addressed to him under this date, and by which he requests that in case the city of Messina shall be declared in a state of siege by the Royal Government, measures may be taken in order that the persons and property of British subjects residing in that city may not suffer in the event of firing upon the said city.

The Undersigned in reply hastens to make known to Lord Napier that from reports sent by the General Commandant at Messina, it appears that that officer had already given official notice to the various Consuls of foreign nations residing in that town, inviting them to come to an understanding with him respecting the measures to be adopted to protect the persons and goods of their countrymen in the possible event of his being obliged to make use of rigorous means to quell seditious tumults in the city of Messina.

From this Lord Napier may feel sure that the Government and its officers are determined to do everything in their power to ensure the safety of British subjects and all other foreigners in the event of an occurrence which it is to be hoped will never take place.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE SCILLA DUKE
OF SAN CRISTINA.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 2.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a letter which I have addressed to his Excellency Prince Scilla, asking for information respecting the state of affairs at Palermo, and requesting his Excellency to give orders to the Captains of Government steam-vessels to take letters from Her Majesty's Legation to Her Majesty's Consul at that city, and to charge themselves with Mr. Goodwin's despatches for this Mission.

I submit to your Lordship herewith his Excellency's reply, in which he says almost nothing, and refuses his consent to my proposal about the transmission of correspondence, alleging that the post is not suspended, an assertion which if correct would only give Her Majesty's Legation the power of writing and receiving letters twice a-week at a time when every day may bring intelligence of importance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Lord Napier to Prince Scilla.

Excellency,

Naples, January 18, 1848.

IN the interview with which you honoured me this morning I took occasion to submit to you the extreme inconvenience and painful uncertainty in which Her British Majesty's Legation had been placed, in common I believe with the rest of the foreign Missions, by the suspension of official intercourse between this capital and Palermo.

The exact cause of the prolonged silence which I regret on the part of Her Majesty's Consul is as yet concealed from me, but such rumours have been put in circulation as lead me to fear that Her Britannic Majesty's subjects have been forced by a serious violation of public tranquillity to leave the city of Palermo, perhaps with loss of life, certainly with great sacrifice of convenience and property, and take refuge on board a British vessel of war.

Under these circumstances I venture to appeal to your Excellency for some intelligence which may have the effect of confirming or dispelling the apprehensions which have become too general to be neglected, in order that I may be enabled to communicate with the Admiral in command of Her Britannic Majesty's squadron in these seas, who is doubtless desirous to distribute his forces in such a manner as to afford security to the lives and property of Her Majesty's subjects.

Your Excellency will greatly oblige me by informing me whether the state of Palermo be such as to place the interests of foreigners in jeopardy by the operations of contending forces, if such there be, and whether the Neapolitan Government have any reason to believe or apprehend that the English residents have found it necessary to leave their customary dwellings, and retreat on board ship, and if so, whether due notice and facility was accorded them by the Royal commander, and a becoming respect shown for their persons and property and for the residence of Her Majesty's Consul.

Your Excellency would also confer a sensible favour on Her Majesty's Legation, by causing orders to be given to the Captains of Neapolitan steam-vessels dispatched to Palermo, to take in charge any letters which Her Majesty's Legation may desire to have conveyed to that port, and to receive those which Her Majesty's Consul may place at their disposal for the capital.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

*Prince Scilla to Lord Napier.**Napoli, 18 Gennaio, 1848, alle 11 della sera.*

IL Sottoscritto, &c., si dà l'onore di porgere riscontro alla nota indirizzatagli oggi stesso da Lord Napier, &c., e relativa alla posizione de' sudditi Inglesi residenti nella città di Palermo, ed a mezzi di corrispondenza tra le Legazioni di Sua Maestà Britannica e quella capitale.

Cirea alla prima parte il Sottoscritto è nel caso di assicurare Lord Napier che il Governo di Sua Maestà Siciliana trovasi di aver dato, e continuerà a dar le necessarie disposizioni onde i sudditi di Sua Maestà Britannica come quelli di altre Potenze sieno rispettati e protetti; e di soggiungerle che da vaghe notizie pervenute a sua cognizione si ha che parecchie famiglie siansi ritirate a bordo di legni ancorati in quel porto.

In quanto a' mezzi straordinarj che Lord Napier addimanda per far giungere a Palermo le sue lettere, il Sottoscritto si dà l'onore di assicurarla che la corrispondenza ordinaria postale tra' due paesi continua a partire regolarmente, e che può in conseguenza servirsi di tal mezzo come per lo addietro.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Firmato) SCILLA S. CRISTINA.

(Translation.)

Naples, January 18, 1848, 11 o'clock at night.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to reply to the note of this day's date addressed to him by Lord Napier, &c., relative to the position of English subjects resident at Palermo, and also to the means of correspondence between Her Britannic Majesty's Legation and that capital.

With regard to the first part the Undersigned begs to assure Lord Napier that the Government of His Sicilian Majesty has taken and will continue to take the necessary measures that the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, as well as those of other Powers, may be respected and protected; also that from news which he has received it appears that many families have retired on board the ships anchored in the harbour.

With regard to the unusual facilities for the transport of letters to and from Palermo, which Lord Napier demands, the Undersigned has the honour to assure him that the ordinary postal communication between the two countries continues to ply regularly, and that he can continue to make use of that means of conveyance as before.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) SCILLA S. CRISTINA.

No. 27.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 2.)

(Extract.)

Naples, January 20, 1848.

THE "Fair Rosamond" returned from Palermo this morning and placed me at last in possession of certain intelligence respecting the progress of the Revolution in that city.

From the accompanying copies of a journal kept by Mr. Lyon and of a letter from Captain Key of Her Majesty's steam-frigate "Bulldog," your Lordship will be enabled to form an accurate estimate of the force and attitude of the insurgent party.

In the apprehension that neither the Neapolitan Ministers nor perhaps His Sicilian Majesty himself have been made acquainted with the truth in this momentous question, I deemed it right to offer the perusal of Captain Key's letter to the President of the Council and Prince Scilla. I conse-

quently had an Italian translation prepared with some slight modifications and communicated it to Marquis Pietracatella, who read it with much interest, and assured me on his honour it contained particulars of which he had remained entirely ignorant, and which evidently led his Excellency to take a more serious view of the calamitous nature of this revolt than he had previously entertained.

While I was yet with the President his Excellency was called to the Palace, and I proceeded to visit Prince Scilla, to whom I read Captain Key's letter and gave some additional information on the same subject. His Excellency readily undertook to convey my communication to His Sicilian Majesty, which I left in his Excellency's hands for that purpose.

Inclosure 1 in No. 27.

Mr. Lyon's Journal of his stay at Palermo.

JANUARY 14th, 8:30 P.M. Made sail from Naples in company with the ninth Neapolitan steamer of war bound to Palermo with troops.

15th. At sea.

16th. At daylight anchored alongside Her Majesty's ship "Bulldog" at Palermo; found the ninth Neapolitan war-steamer at anchor landing their troops. The English and others embarking on board the merchant-men. Went on board Her Majesty's ship "Bulldog" and heard from Captain Key that he had seen Prince Louis, who had said that he regretted the bombardment as unnecessary and that he would order it to cease; no shells were fired all Sunday the 16th, the troops holding only their barracks, the Castellamare, Finanze, and Palace, but not the gates of the town. At about 2 P.M. the fresh troops, 5000 in number, were drawn up in column and moved forward to attack the people. Heavy guns being fired from the castle and down the Toledo from near the Palace; by 5 o'clock P.M. the troops were repulsed and all general fighting ceased. Landed at 3 P.M.; returned at 5.

17th, Monday.—At 3 A.M. heavy musketry commenced and constant fighting continued all the forenoon with advantage to the people. At 1:30 P.M. called with Captain Key on board senior Neapolitan officer's ship; inquired for the Prince Louis; were civilly but very coldly received, and told that Prince Louis was not on board. Saw senior Captain from whom Captain Key demanded that he should receive sufficient notice before the steamers should commence bombarding the town; this was promised and we returned on board. At 2:30 P.M. the Castellamare recommenced throwing shells from two heavy mortars with considerable effect. At 3:30 P.M. landed with Dr. Mott, and proceeding to the headquarters (Santa Anna) of the insurgents in order to visit the hospital, curious to see the state of the defences, found the Palace de Santa Anna full of armed men, flour escorted by insurgents, troops passing through the place, and everything conducted in a most orderly way; no ill-treatment visited on the prisoners, the captured spies even respected, which is not always the case among nations at war; the fury of the people upon the Prince's promise being broken through was so excited, that on the bombardment recommencing, a spy taken on Monday evening on the recommencement of the bombardment was executed in my presence at Santa Anna, and two more taken disguised as monks were sentenced to death by the people assembled, but I did not see them executed. Found the hospital of this quarter not to contain more than thirty or forty wounded; hospital well attended, clean and well supplied—priest in attendance to minister to the dying. At sunset returned on board, and on Tuesday 18th at 10 A.M. landed again; the firing of musketry was heavy and general, and light guns fired down the streets. Proceeded to the Senate, which was sitting, and also the Committee of the War Department, and during my stay arrived a flag of truce from the Duke de Majo to explain that the convent near the Palace had been fired into because the monks (he stated) had fired on the troops, and he proposed to stop the effusion of blood by each party ceasing their fire; the statement of the Duke about the monks was denied, and he was told that until he sent

proper terms to the British Consulate, or on board the British steamer of war, no cessation of fire could be allowed. This reply seemed to bring on a general attack from the troops, as heavy guns, shells, and a general attack burst out from the troops about the time that this reply had time to reach the Palace. About 4 p.m. the troops were retiring fast through the Villa Franca gardens, which are near their barracks, and by 5 o'clock were beaten down to the ends of the streets debouching on the sea-shore, and at dark were completely closed up in their barracks. Before embarking I visited again the hospital of Santa Anna and the prison of that quarter; I was told that they had 96 soldiers there in two days before; I found 202 soldiers, principally in the 1st Regiment, the rest were of the 11th Regiment of the Royal Guard and four or five spies; all well treated and seemingly not very sorry for themselves, the spies excepted. The rich and poor, the noble and the peasant, have but one story to tell, namely, that death is better than the Government they have lived under, and that they are prepared to see every house in Palermo knocked about their heads before they will yield one atom or one inch; and I am sure that nothing but shelling can drive them out of the town, and even then they have a country well suited for guerilla warfare open to them, where no Neapolitan troops dare follow them. The troops seem to have displayed no bravery and the people completely despise them. The people on the other hand fight well and indeed have neglected all those wise precautions of barricades properly formed. At 8 p.m. at the earnest request of Captain Key I sailed from Palermo with despatches for Naples.

Inelasure 2 in No. 27.

Captain Key to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Bulldog," Palermo, January 18, 1848.

HER Majesty's Consul having permitted me to read his journal before I forward it to you, I think it my duty or rather I trust it is not presuming if I take advantage of a few minutes to add in as concise a manner as possible what has occurred since the arrival of the Neapolitan squadron and troops (which at first appeared so materially to change the aspect of affairs), and also to state what is the present position of the contending parties.

Let me premise that the safety of the British residents is provided for.

The steam squadron with 5000 troops arrived on the evening of the 15th and disembarked before daylight the next morning. On the 16th many Sicilian noblemen and gentlemen who were deeply compromised came on board the "Bulldog" for refuge. We also learned that many of the country-people who had entered the town to join the populace had returned to country with their arms. This gave me reason to expect that as it showed an evident loss of confidence in their strength, it would be followed by the speedy march of the troops to the relief of the Palace. On the afternoon of that day a detachment of troops who had been dispatched for that purpose were beaten back by the populace. On the 17th this was repeated and followed by an attack on a part of the barracks, which they carried, and captured half a regiment, 200 or 300 men, marching them out with their band playing in advance.

The troops now appear paralyzed. All their positions are cut off from each other. The country-people are re-entering the town, and the populace are so firmly established that I conceive nothing short of a general bombardment can dislodge them. The local Government have no authority to grant concessions; the leaders of the people feel sure that those under them will no longer listen to any reasonable terms. Should the town be bombarded it would be destroyed without reducing the strength of the people, as they have command of all the gates and can retire to the country with their arms.

From all this it cannot but appear that the ultimate success of the people is almost inevitable, which, in their present exasperated and un-

controllable condition, that would no doubt increase with each day's resistance and success, would it must be feared not only cause much bloodshed, but ruin their own cause by their excesses and unreasonable demands; the state of anarchy that would then exist must I should think render reconciliation impossible. This I conceive to be their present position, from which I cannot foresee that anything can rescue them but the interference of a third party sufficiently powerful to give both the Government and the people confidence in the guarantee that any terms agreed upon should be strictly complied with. I trust you will pardon me if I am presuming in thus expressing my opinion, but I am urged to it by the sight of so much bloodshed, both present and to come.

The whole of the British residents are embarked either on board the "Bulldog" or the British and American merchant-vessels, with the exception of the Consul and one or two families who wish to remain until the last moment.

The Prince sailed yesterday I know not where. I requested warning of the Neapolitan Commodore before he opened fire on the town. This morning he came on board to tell me they should open fire if they observed large masses of the populace collected, but he would send me word before he did so; this I must consider sufficient warning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. COOPER KEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 27.

Documents issued by the Provisional Government at Palermo.

1.—Notizie Importanti.

Palermo, li 17 Gennaro, 1848.

❖ I VALOROSI Porcelli, Giacinto Carini, La Masa, Jacono, Bivona, Oddo, Castiglia, al cui sagace ardire dobbiamo l'acquisto di varj cannoni, Pasquale Bruno che jeri si distinse nel conflitto di Porta Macqueda, e gli altri capi di squadre sin dal giorno 12 combattono vincendo. Si versino per loro lagrime di riconoscenza.

Il Presidente del Quarto Comitato,
RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

2.—Notizie Importanti.

Palermo, li 17 Gennaro, 1848.

CON animo generoso le persone invitate finora hanno contribuito le infrascritte somme come primo segno d'un amor di patria che merita per sola ricompensa la pubblica gratitudine.

Barone Riso	Onze	420	0	Famiglia Villarosa	Onze	30	0
Seabile	"	50	0	Vincenzo Merlo	"	2	0
Villa Riso	"	50	0	Olivella	"	50	0
Francesco Anea	"	50	0	D'Onofrio, per Diversi	"	72	0
Famiglia Caminetti	"	100	0	Barone D. Nicolo Agostino e	"		
Montevago	"	50	0	Bagnasco	"	12	0
Barone Fusilino	"	60	0	Due forestieri	"	341	0
Gramaglia	"	20	0	Hiesloff	"	100	0
Emmanuel Viola	"	10	0	Gela	"	2	0
Principe Lampedusa	"	16	0	Duca Monteleone	"	300	0
Maresca Fardella	"	10	0	Gualtieri	"	80	0
Giovanni Billeci	"	2	0	PP. Benedettini	"	30	0
Antonio Cascia	"	2	0	Monastero Stimati	"	4	0
Vincenzo Parisi	"	4	0	Gesuiti	"	100	0
Giamari	"	2	0	Principe Scordia	"	100	0
Gioacchino Longo	"	10	0	Verona	"	30	0
Giuseppe Villanova	"	10	0	Monastero della Martorana	"	10	0
Francesco Villanova	"	2	0	Carlo Merlo e Merlo	"	4	0
Salvatore Spadafora	"	4	5	Monastero di S. Caterina	"	30	0
Domenico Filangeri	"	50	0	Fratelli Tranchina	"	6	0

Il Presidente del Quarto Comitato,
RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

3.—*Notizie Importanti.**Palermo, il 17 Gennaro, 1848.*

IL Monrealese Salvatore di Miceli del fu Francesco attaccò e sconfisse la Cavalleria il giorno 13 in Palermo, il 14 si battè con la truppa in Monreale, e l'obbligò a rendersi verso le ore 20; fè dono della vita a tutti quelli che si arresero, e fè organizzare la guardia nazionale per la pubblica sicurezza.

Adesso è fra noi alla testa di 100 valorosi che fra poche ore saranno seguiti da parecchie centinaia. Sia lode a lui e a' bravi che combattono per la patria.

Il Presidente del Quarto Comitato,
RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

4.—*Notizie Importanti.**Palermo, il 17 Gennaro, 1848.*

IL prode Giuseppe Scordato dopo aver disarmata la truppa in Bagheria sua patria, conducendo seco a Palermo la vinta schiera con le armi deposte ed un cannone che gli venne atto di prendere in un luogo da lui conosciuto è da tre giorni a Palermo, ove sempre combatte e vince, jeri dopo pranzo la banda da lui guidata sbaragliò la truppa adunata nel largo del Palazzo Reale. Sia a lui e ai suoi dovuta la comune lode, ed accresca la pubblica esultanza.

Il Presidente del Quarto Comitato,
RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

5.

Palermo, il 15 Gennaro, 1848.

IL giorno dodici di Gennaro il popolo di Palermo fu aggredito da' soldati che chiamava fratelli; a' primi atti ostili taluni cittadini de' più animosi impugnarono le armi e si cominciò a combattere; subito si formò un Comitato Provvisorio nella Piazza della Fieravvecchia, composto da' Signori Giuseppe Oddo, Bivona, Santoro, La Masa, Jacono, Porcelli, Corteggiani, Lo Cascio, Enea, Palizzolo, Amodei, Pasquale Meloro, Pasquale Bruno, i tre fratelli Ciancioli, Rosario Bagnasco, Leonardo Decarlo, Fratelli Carini, Vellafiorita, i due fratelli Ondes, Enrico Fardella, Antonino Faja, Rosolivo Capace; il quale con eroico coraggio difese la città e provvide alla pubblica salute; la sera del dodici la truppa avea sgombrata la città respinta dal popolo: da quel giorno sin' oggi si combatte fieramente, le genti delle vicine campagne, delle comuni vicine corrono ogni giorno in difesa della città; i diversi combattimenti avvenuti sino al giorno di jeri si diranno appena al Presidente del Quarto Comitato perverranno le relazioni de' varj capi del popolo armato. Dal dì d'oggi si faranno noti al pubblico i fatti d'armi che avvengono con la possibile celerità maggiore; si sappia solo che sinora pochi sono i feriti tra il popolo, pochissimi i morti, che i soldati hanno sofferto più gravi danni, e più che duecento prigionieri sono fra le braccia del popolo che restituisce loro il nome di fratelli!

Sin dal giorno tredici le bombe lanciate sin' anche di notte, e la mitraglia sul popolo inerme che percorre il Toledo, molestano barbaramente la città; in questa situazione il Comitato Provvisorio accompagnato dal popolo si recò alle case de' più conspicui cittadini invitandoli a correre con loro alla difesa comune; e tutti vi hanno aderito con effusione di cuore. Così jeri si stabilirono i quattro comitati di cui si è fatto parola per mezzo delle stampe, e si misero subito a deliberare fra le bombe piombanti su i prossimi edifizj.

Oltre il Comitato Provvisorio che si è fuso nei Comitati Generali, e rimane nello stesso luogo per occorrere a' casi che bisognano di pronti provvedimenti.

Il Quarto Comitato riunitosi passò subito all'elezione del segretario in persona dell'Avvocato Vincenzo Errante, del tesoriere in persona del Signor Conte Manzone. Dopo invitò il Comitato di Guerra per fargli conoscere i nomi de' capi delle squadre pregando il detto Comitato ad imporre loro di passare al Signor Presidente del Quarto Comitato la notizia di tutti gli avvenimenti con la massima celerità.

S'invitarono gli altri comitati a comunicare le nuove più importanti onde rendersi pubbliche. S'invitò il Comitato delle Finanze a somministrare qualche somma al tesoriere per servire all'oggetto. Dichiarò infine che durante l'urgenza il Comitato si riunirà ogni giorno.

De' Presidenti degli altri Comitati, quello dell'Annona rispose subito che il Signor Principe di Scordia si era incaricato di parlare al Signor Tasca, e che Tasca avea messo volenterosamente a disposizione del Pretore tutti i suoi frumenti.

Che S. E. il Pretore può disporre di salme mille circa di frumenti, ma sapea che nei dintorni di Palermo ve n'era una grande quantità.

Si stabilì di scegliere alcuni conventi come luoghi i più adatti per il deposito delle farine, e furono subito proposti i seguenti :

Convento della Gancia.	S. Agostino.
S. Nicola Tolentino.	Carmine.
S. Antonino.	Montesanto.
Casa Professa dei Gesuiti.	S. Francesco.
S. Domenico.	Crociferi Casa Professa.

Si stabilì inoltre che gli assistenti della sezione faranno da ispettori di piazza.

Dopo ciò alle ore 3 p. m. il Quarto Comitato si sciolse.

Sia ciò noto alla città di Palermo e a tutte le comuni della Sicilia.

6.

Palermo il 14 del 1848.

Art. 1. Riunita la municipalità dal Comitato Provvisorio accompagnato dal popolo, si è stabilito di farsi un Comitato per provvedere a tutto ciò che riguarda l'Annona, preseduto dal Pretore composto da' Senatori e dai Decurioni presenti.

Art. 2. Si è composto un comitato per provvedere ai mezzi di trovare e somministrare le munizioni da guerra, e tutt'altro che concerne il buon andamento della pubblica sicurezza, preseduto dal Signor Principe della Pantelleria, e composto da' Signori Duca di Gualtieri, Jacono, Riso, Bassano, Vergara, Calona, Gravina, Rammacca, La Masa, Porcelli, Pilo, Capace, Bivona, Villafiorita, e Castiglia.

Art. 3. Si è composto un comitato per raccogliere tutte le somme che sono e saranno disponibili, e distribuirle nel miglior modo possibile, preseduto dal Marchese di Rudini, e composto dai Signori Stabile, Villa Riso, Anca, Sommatino, Santoro.

Art. 4. Si è composto un comitato per raccogliere tutte le notizie di tutti gli avvenimenti che succederanno, e divulgarle con esattezza, preseduto dal Signor Maresciallo Settimo, composto dai Signori Duca di Terranova, Calvi, Errante, Beltrani, Pisani, Manzone.

Art. 5. Il Comitato Provvisorio si è fuso ne' Comitati Generali, e rimane nello stesso luogo per occorrere a' casi che bisognano di pronti provvedimenti, composto da' Signori Bivona, Santoro, La Masa, Jacono, Porcelli, Cortegiani, Lo Cascia, Enea, Palizzolo.

Seguono le firme:

Marchese di Spedalotto.	Francesco Anca.
Francesco Trigona Sant' Elia.	Giovanni Villa Riso.
Rosolino Capace.	Francesco Vergara.
Giuseppe La Masa.	Salesio Balsano.
Porcelli.	Mariano Stabile.
Salvatore Castiglia.	Giuseppe Amato.
Antonino D'Ondes Reggio.	Duchino Verdura.
Santoro.	Gravina.

Barone Andrea Bivona.
 Marchese Pilo.
 Principe Paotelleria.
 Av. Ignazio Calona.
 Francesco Borgia Villafiorita.
 Enrico Fardella.
 Principe Scordia.
 Scalia.
 Coote di Sommatino.
 Marchese di Torre Arsa.
 Ruggiero Settimo.
 Duca Monteleone.
 Avvocato Pasquale Calvi.
 Avvocato Vincenzo Errante.

Vito Beltrani.
 Barone Casimiro Pisani.
 Conte Tommaso Manzone.
 Duca di Serradifalco.
 Duca Gualtieri.
 Marchese Rudini.
 Barone Riso Jacona.
 Principe San Cataldo.
 Jacono.
 Corteggiani.
 Lo Cascio.
 Enea.
 Palizzolo.

Sia ciò noto alla città di Palermo e a tutte le comuni della Sicilia.

(Translation.)

1.—*Important Announcement.*

Palermo, January 17, 1848.

THE brave Porcelli, Giacinto Carioi, La Masa, Jacono, Bivona, Oddo, Castiglia, to whose sagacious boldness we owe the acquisition of several canoons; Pasquale Bruno, who distinguished himself yesterday in the fight at Porta Macqueda, and the other heads of troops, have been victoriously engaged ever since the 12th. Let tears of gratitude be shed for them.

The President of the Fourth Committee,
 RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

2.—*Important Announcement.*

Palermo, January 17, 1848.

THE persons invited have, up to this time, geerously contributed the uoder-meotioned sums, as the first token of a patriotism which deserves the public gratitude as its sole recompose.

(List of names.)

The President of the Fourth Committee,
 (Signed) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

3.—*Important Announcement.*

Palermo, January 17, 1848.

SALVADORE DI MICELI, of Monreale, son of the late Francesco, attacked and defeated the cavalry in Palermo on the 13th, he fought with the regiment in Monreale on the 14th, and compelled it to surrender about the 20th hour (i.e. about 2 p.m.); he gave quarter to all who surrendered, and caused the Natioal Guard to be orgaoized for public security.

He is now amongst us at the head of 100 courageous men, who will be followed by many hundreds within a few hours. Praise be to him and to the brave meo who are fighting for thcir country.

The President of the Fourth Committee,
 (Signed) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

4.—*Important Announcement.*

Palermo, January 17, 1848.

THE bold Giuseppe Scordato, after having disarmed the regiment in Bagheria, his native place, and brioging with him to Palermo the vanquished troops with their arms laid aside, and three canoons which he was

enabled to seize at a spot known to him, has been these three days in Palermo, where he has fought and conquered without intermission. After dinner yesterday the troop under his direction routed the regiment collected in the square of the Palace. Be the due praise of every one given to him and his followers, and may the public rejoicings increase.

The President of the Fourth Committee.

(Signed)

RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

5.

Palermo, January 15, 1848.

ON the 12th day of January the people of Palermo were attacked by soldiers whom they had called brothers. At the first hostile acts some of the boldest citizens armed themselves, and the fight began. A Provisional Committee was immediately formed in the Piazza della Fiera Vecchia, composed of Messrs. G. Oddo, Bivona, Santoro, La Masa, Jacono, Porcelli, Corteggiani, Lo Cascio, Enea, Palizzolo, Amodei, Pasquale Meloro, Pasquale Bruno, the three brothers Ciancioli, Rosario Bagnasco, Leonardo Decarlo, the brothers Carini, Vellafiorita, the two brothers Ondes, Enrico Fardella, Antonio Faja, Rosolino Capace, who defended the city with heroic courage, and provided for the public security. By the evening of the 12th the soldiers repulsed by the people had left the city. From that day to this there has been dreadful fighting, the people of the country and villages in the neighbourhood hasten day after day to the defence of the city; the different skirmishes which have taken place up to yesterday shall be made known as soon as the various leaders of the armed people shall have communicated the details to the President of the Fourth Committee. From the present day every battle which takes place shall be made known to the people with all possible speed: the only facts yet known are that a few of the people are wounded and a very few dead; that the soldiers have suffered very heavy losses, and that more than 200 prisoners have been taken by the people, who restore to them the appellation of brothers.

Ever since the 13th the bombs, which are thrown in even by night, and the grape-shot against the unarmed people walking in Toledo-street, annoy the city cruelly. In this situation the Provisional Committee, accompanied by the people, proceeded to the dwellings of the most important citizens, inviting their concurrence in the general defence, to which all have heartily responded. The four committees mentioned by the public press were also established yesterday, and deliberations were commenced while the bombs were falling on the neighbouring buildings.

The Provisional Committee also has merged in the General Committee, and remains in the same place in order to meet any occasion in which prompt measures may be required.

The Fourth Committee having met, proceeded immediately to the election of the Advocate Vincenzo Errante as Secretary, and of Count Manzoni as Treasurer. The Committee of War was then called upon to make known the names of the leaders of the troops, and was also requested to direct them to communicate to the President of the Fourth Committee the details of every affair with the utmost speed.

The other Committees were invited to communicate any news of great importance for the purpose of publication; the Committee of Finances was called upon to furnish the Treasurer with funds for this purpose. It was then declared that the Committee should meet every day during urgency.

Of the other Committees, the President of that of Provisions then stated that the Prince of Scordia had engaged to speak to Signor Tasca, and that Tasca had voluntarily put all his corn at the disposal of the Prætor. That his Excellency the Prætor has at his disposal about 1000 salms of corn, but he knows that there is a large quantity in the neighbourhood of Palermo.

It was resolved to select some convents as places best adapted for depositing flour; and the following were forthwith proposed :

Convento della Gancia.	S. Agostino.
S. Nicola Tolentino.	Carmine.
S. Antonino.	Montesanto.
Casa Professa dei Gesuiti.	S. Francesca.
S. Domenico.	Crocifero Casa Professa.

It was also resolved that the parties belonging to the section should act as inspectors of the town.

The Fourth Committee then broke up at 3 o'clock P.M.

Let this be made known to the city of Palermo and to all other towns in Sicily.

6.

Palermo, the 14th, 1848.

Art. 1. The Provisional Committee, accompanied by the people, having assembled the municipality, it was resolved to form a Committee to manage all matters connected with provisions, under the presidency of the Prætor, to be composed of the Senators and Decurions present.

Art. 2. A Committee has been formed to provide means for finding and supplying ammunition, and for every other matter belonging to the maintenance of public safety; to be under the presidency of the Prince della Pantelleria, to be composed of the Duke di Gualtieri, Jacono, Riso, Bassano, Vergara, Calona, Gravina, Ramacca, La Masa, Porcelli, Pilo, Capace, Bivona, Villafiorita, and Castiglia.

Art. 3. A Committee has been formed to levy all monies which are and shall be available, and to distribute the same in the best possible manner; to be under the presidency of the Marquis Rudini, and to be composed of Signors Stabile, Villa Riso, Anea, Sommatino, Santoro.

Art. 4. A Committee has been formed for the purpose of obtaining all information of all the events which take place, and for the purpose of publishing the same correctly; to be under the presidency of Marshal Settimo, and to be composed of the Duke of Terranova, Calvi, Errante, Beltrani, Pisani, and Manzone.

Art. 5. The Provisional Committee is merged in the General Committees, and remains in the same position in order to meet any case in which prompt measures may be requisite; to be composed of Messrs. Bivona, Santoro, La Masa, Jacono, Porcelli, Corteggiani, Lo Cascio, Enea, Palizzolo.

(Signatures follow.)

Let this be made known to the city of Palermo and to all the towns of Sicily.

No. 28.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 2.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 20, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith extract of a journal kept by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Palermo on the 13th and 14th instant, by which it appears that on those days the citadel of Palermo fired upon the town with round shot and shell, without such warning having been given to Her Majesty's Consul and the Representatives of other nations, as is customary in such cases and necessary for the preservation of the lives and properties of foreign subjects.

In consequence of this intelligence I have addressed to the Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs the accompanying note, protesting against

the bombardment of Palermo, and holding the Neapolitan Government responsible for indemnification to Her Majesty's subjects for all loss or prejudice they may have endured thereby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No 28.

Extract of a Journal kept by Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo.

IN the night of Sunday and Monday the 9th and 10th January the Duca di Villarosa, Z. Amari, Z. Andes, Ferrara Pizzuto, Fiorenza, Caminacci, and L. Sessa, were arrested and carried to the Castellamare. In the course of the day handbills were distributed announcing the insurrection of the 12th.

On Tuesday 11th nothing particular occurred.

On Wednesday 12th, at daybreak, 200 armed men marched from Porta di Greci on the Marina to Fiera Vecchia, seized Porta di Termini, attacked the gendarmes, stopped the procaccio (public carriage) from Catania, took 10,000 ducats and placed them in the Benedictine convent, their head-quarters. Her Majesty's steamer "Bulldog" arrived in afternoon, and shortly afterwards "Vesuvio;" the latter ordered off next morning.

Thursday, 13th January. Bells of all churches rang at daybreak; troops and populace engaged in Piano Marina for four hours, with small loss, against the Finanze, which were not taken. Quarter of the Marina barricaded with boats, Toledo with benches and tables, pavement taken up. Musket shots incessantly all forenoon; cannon shots and bombs from Castellamare directed against Piano Marina all afternoon. People master of gates on Marina except Porta Felice and Stradone, Reale Termini and St. Antonino. Town quiet from sunset till 10 o'clock. Firing renewed till midnight. Quiet again until 3 A.M. Hail, rain, and snow all night.

Friday, 14th January. At 3 A.M. bombs from Castellamare against populace in front of Finanze. In the forenoon ceased; renewed at half-past 1 P.M. At 4 P.M. a bomb having fallen into Murdoch's house, Franck's family and Thompson's, eight in all, took refuge in Consulate. Night passed over quietly.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Lord Napier to Prince Scilla.

Naples, January 20, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to state to his Excellency Prince Scilla, &c., that he has obtained intelligence from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Palermo, that on the 13th and 14th instant, in consequence of certain popular commotions in that city, a fire of shells was opened from the castle upon the same, and has been continued with various intervals since, and that this bombardment was not preceded by such warning and notification on the part of the civil and military authorities to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, as is customary in such cases, and is necessary for the preservation of the lives and properties of foreign subjects.

The Undersigned consequently protests against the said bombardment, and holds the Neapolitan Government responsible for whatever loss or prejudice in person or property, Her Britannic Majesty's subjects may have endured thereby, and reserves to Her Britannic Majesty's Government a full right to claim such indemnification as they may deem just and necessary to repair the same.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 29.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 23, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of a correspondence which has taken place between Her Majesty's Legation and his Excellency Prince Scilla, relative to chartering a steam vessel for the relief of British subjects who have been driven on board ship at Palermo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Lord Napier to Prince Scilla.

Naples, January 21, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to acquaint his Excellency Prince Scilla, &c., that several British merchants of this city having obtained intelligence of the distressed condition of their correspondents and countrymen at Palermo, who in consequence of the bombardment took refuge on board Her Britannic Majesty's steam-vessel "Bulldog" and other vessels in that harbour, have determined to charter a steam-vessel to carry provisions and other assistance to their countrymen above mentioned.

As Palermo has not, as far as the Undersigned is aware, been declared in state of blockade, the usual liberty of commerce exists between Naples and that city, but in order to avoid all difficulty the Undersigned deems it right to advise his Excellency Prince Scilla of the intention of Her Britannic Majesty's subjects, offering at the same time his guarantee that the provisions forwarded will be distributed solely on board Her Majesty's steam-frigate "Bulldog," or in other vessels in port, or on board the steam-ship itself, and will not under any pretext be landed either in camp or in the revolted city.

The Undersigned is also empowered to state to his Excellency Prince Scilla that an officer of the Neapolitan police or other public functionary will be received on board the ship so chartered, and that the latter will be placed under the care of Mr. William Stanford junior, of the house of Cumming, Wood, and Co., who has offered his services for this purpose, and who will also be charged with despatches for Her Britannic Majesty's Consul by the Undersigned.

Furthermore, the Undersigned has the honour to acquaint his Excellency Prince Scilla that as there are several aged persons and invalids and others who may desire to leave the port of Palermo and take refuge in Naples, he will thank his Excellency to adopt the proper measures for insuring to those persons a liberty of being landed in Naples from the vessel in question on her return, without the usual precautions of passport and sanitary papers, which it may perhaps be impossible to procure at Palermo.

The vessel proposed to be chartered is the "Maria Cristina," of the Neapolitan Steam-boat Company, and it is thought desirable that she should leave Naples to-morrow morning.

The Undersigned therefore solicits his Excellency Prince Scilla to employ his exertions in forwarding the benevolent intentions of the British merchants by causing orders to be given to the authorities of the port and customs to permit and facilitate the shipment of the provisions of which a rough draft is annexed.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

*Prince Scilla to Lord Napier.**Napoli, 21 Gennaio, 1848.*

IL Sottoscritto, &c., ha preso sollecitamente gli ordini del Rè sull' oggetto della nota indirizzatagli oggi stesso da Lord Napier, &c., e la Maestà Sua gli ha imposto di manifestare a Lord Napier che non incontra alcuna difficoltà di soddisfare i desiderj di lui per lo invio che alcuni negozianti Inglesi intendono fare a Palermo di provigioni ed altro; ed in pari tempo gli ha prescritto la Maestà Sua di offrire al Signor Incenriato d'Affari il mezzo di un vapore di guerra che parte dimani a quella volta anche con carico di provigioni onde evitare così il dispendio cui i sudetti negozianti aadrebbero incontro per lo invio degli oggetti descritti nel notameato che per lo imbarco di coloro che volessero recarsi in questa capitale al ritorno.

Il Sottoscritto rimane in aspettativa de riscontri di Lord Napier onde possano darsi le analoghe disposizioni nell' uno e nell' altro caso, e profitta, &c.

(Firmato) PRINCIPE DE SCILLA.

(Translation.)

Naples, January 21, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., immediately took the orders of His Majesty the King upon the subject of the note of this day's date addressed to him by Lord Napier, &c., and His Majesty has desired him to state to Lord Napier that he has no difficulty in complying with his wishes respecting the transport of certain provisions and other things which some English merchants wish to send to Palermo; and at the same time His Majesty has ordered the Undersigned to offer to the Chargé d'Affaires the use of a war-steamer which starts to-morrow for that place, also with a cargo of provisions, so as thereby to avoid the expense to which the said merchants would be subjected in transporting the goods described in the list, as well as to receive on board any persons who may wish to repair to this capital at its return.

The Undersigned awaits Lord Napier's answer so as to give the necessary orders in either sense, and avails, &c.

(Signed) SCILLA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 29.

*Lord Napier to Prince Scilla.**Naples, January 21, 1848.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a note from his Excellency Prince Scilla, &c., conveying to the Undersigned the consent of His Sicilian Majesty to the request of the British merchants who are desirous of sending assistance to their countrymen at Palermo, and offering the facility afforded by the departure of a Neapolitan steam vessel of war for that purpose.

The Undersigned hastens to present to His Sicilian Majesty, through the channel of his Excellency Prince Scilla, the expression of his sincerest gratitude for this mark of gracious benevolence conferred by His Majesty upon the subjects of Great Britain, and he will lose no time in communicating it to the parties whom it directly concerns.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 29.

*Lord Napier to Prince Scilla.**Naples, January 21, 1848.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to acquaint his Excellency Prince Scilla, &c., that he has communicated the will of His Sicilian Majesty to the British merchants, and that the latter have resolved to avail themselves of His Majesty's gracious permission to charter a steam-vessel for the relief and convenience of their countrymen, in consideration of the number of persons whom it may be necessary to receive, and of the nature of the accommodation requisite for them, and they therefore beg respectfully to decline the offer of employing the Royal steam-vessel, with a deep sense of the humane and considerate generosity on the part of His Sicilian Majesty which placed it at their service.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 30.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 23, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches which I have addressed respectively to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo and Captain Key of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Bulldog."

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Lord Napier to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Naples, January 22, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that up to this day's date I have received from the Neapolitan Government no intimation that Palermo is in a state of blockade or that lawful authority is suspended in that city.

I do not know whether any declaration to the above effect has been issued by the Lord Lieutenant of Sicily or any other competent power, but should such not be the case, you are instructed, until you receive due intimation of the blockade, to insist upon the usual liberty of traffic in the port of Palermo and elsewhere, and to protect Her Majesty's subjects in the exercise of the same.

The provisions forwarded by the "Maria Cristina" go however under the particular guarantee of Her Majesty's Legation that they are not to be carried into the camp or the revolted city, but to be consumed and distributed on board ship in the harbour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Lord Napier to Captain Key.

Sir,

Naples, January 22, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter marked private of January 18th, containing the first trustworthy intelligence which has hitherto reached Her Majesty's Legation respecting the progress of events at Palermo.

I have taken occasion to communicate the substance of your letter to the President of the Neapolitan Council, and through the Minister of Foreign Affairs to His Sicilian Majesty; and I trust that on being made acquainted with the real state of affairs, they will be persuaded of the serious danger which menaces the Royal authority, and determine upon granting concessions fit to meet the emergency. I took the liberty of expressing my opinion to the President of the Council that the decrees published here on the 18th and 19th would not have the effect of pacifying the revolt of the Sicilian capital; and you will oblige me extremely by informing me of the manner in which those ordinances were received by the insurgent party.

By your letter delivered to me by Prince Petrucci, I am informed that the troops and the rebel forces remained on the 21st instant in the same relative position; and it is gratifying to learn that the latter have not been guilty of any excesses.

Should the contending parties desire to establish a conference on board Her Majesty's ship under your command, I do not see that any inconvenience could spring from such an arrangement, provided always that neither Her Majesty's Consul nor yourself appear in any degree as mediators, but merely as granting the facility of neutral ground for the discussion of their differences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 31.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 23, 1848.

IN continuation of my despatches to your Lordship, forwarded on the 21st instant by messenger Moore, I have the honour to state that I have since received by private hand a short note from Captain Key, undated of the 20th, from Palermo, in which he states that matters remained much in the same state.

The bombardment had not been renewed since the 18th, and in the various encounters which had occurred between the troops and the insurgents, the latter had constantly obtained an advantage. Several attempts at negotiation had been made without effect, and the chiefs of the contending parties had proposed to meet for that purpose on board Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Bulldog," as neutral ground.

The Foreign Consuls had protested against the renewal of the bombardment under any circumstances.

The town of Termini, at a short distance to the east of Palermo, had revolted, and the people were believed to have possessed themselves of some cannon there.

Yesterday there was a kind of sudden disorder and panic in Naples, which spread all over the city and caused the shops to be shut. Confidence was restored in the afternoon, and it is difficult to ascertain the origin of such a general dismay.

The Guards stood to their arms, the Artillery men to their pieces, and the Civic Force ran to their quarters, where they received a complimentary address from His Royal Highness the Prince of Salerno.

It seems certain that disorders have occurred in the region to the south of Prestum called Cilento, and at Potenza, chief city of the Basilicata.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 32.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 5.)

My Lord,

Rome, January 23, 1848.

I HAVE reluctantly detained the messenger bearing Lord Napier's despatches for one day, in order that I might be able to inform your Lordship what course the Pope is disposed to take with respect to the affairs of Sicily and Naples.

On waiting upon His Holiness to-day I found that he had this morning received despatches from the Nuncio at Naples, confirming Lord Napier's representation of the hopelessness of the King's attempts to subdue the Sicilians, and expressing his conviction that nothing short of the Constitution of 1812 could restore peace in that island.

Being aware of the Pope's disposition to interpose his good offices to bring about an accommodation, I asked him if he did not think this an occasion on which his influence and authority might be advantageously exerted.

He said perhaps it might be so and that he was willing to make the attempt.

I then told him that I thought the Kingdoms of Sicily and Naples must be separately treated of, as involving two distinct questions. That the Sicilian Constitution might be restored and liberal institutions similar to those established here and in Tuscany granted to the Neapolitans; and that if such was also his opinion he ought to make it clearly known to the King of Naples, and secure his acquiescence at the outset.

He said that he entirely agreed with me. That a constitution erected at Naples would agitate the whole of Italy; but that Sicily having already been in the enjoyment of a Representative government, and having a claim of right to urge for it, might receive her insular constitution with less danger of excitement in the continental States; that the constitution in Sicily besides seemed inevitable; and that all remaining for them therefore was to endeavour to place Neapolitan institutions as nearly as might be in harmony with those of adjoining States.

He concluded by saying that he should to-morrow write to the Nuncio at Naples, desiring him to sound the King's inclination on these matters. My time does not admit of my reporting more than this bare result of a conversation of considerable length, in which the whole subject was much discussed.

I shall be glad if the Pope's intervention be accepted, and shall be ready, as I told him, to afford him all the assistance in my power; but I confess that I entertain but little hope of its success, or of the efficacy of anything but a superior force in one shape or other to overcome the resistance of the Neapolitan Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 33.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 2, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 18th ultimo, reporting the steps taken by you with reference to the removal of the British arms from Her Majesty's Consulate at Palermo, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the course pursued by you as reported in your despatch above mentioned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 34.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 2, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 18th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a note which you had addressed to Prince Scilla, asking for information as to the state of affairs at Palermo, and requesting that your correspondence with Her Majesty's Consul in that city might be conveyed by the Neapolitan Government steamers; I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve of the course pursued by you in this respect.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 35.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 3, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 18th ultimo, I have to inform your Lordship that I approve of the communications made by you to the Neapolitan Government, and of the substance of your communications to Captain Codrington and to Her Majesty's Consul at Messina.

No. 36.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 3, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 12th ultimo, reporting the answer which you returned to the Earl of Mount Edgumbe's communication, I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve of that answer.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 37.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 3, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing the copy of a letter which you had addressed to Captain Key, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the suggestion contained in that letter as to a conference between the contending parties.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 38.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 3, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd ultimo, reporting a conversation with the Pope upon the affairs of Naples and Sicily, I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the advice given by your Lordship to the Pope in regard to those affairs, and that if your Lordship should think that by going yourself to Naples you could be useful in bringing about a reconciliation between the King of Naples and his subjects, upon conditions that would be calculated to secure the future tranquillity of the Neapolitan and Sicilian territories, your Lordship is at liberty to do so, and to use your best endeavours, either separately or in conjunction with the Pope's Nuncio, for that purpose.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 39.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 3, 1848.

SINCE writing my other despatches of this day I have seen in a second edition of the "Times" newspaper a statement received from Paris, that on the 29th of last month the King of Naples granted both to his Neapolitan and to his Sicilian subjects a re-establishment of the Constitution of 1812. If this news is true, all questions of constitutional and organic reforms seem to be at end between the King of Naples and his subjects, at least as far as general principles are concerned, although it is to be expected that many difficulties may arise in the practical application of the details of this arrangement.

If your Lordship should think it likely that by going to Naples you could be useful to the King of Naples in smoothing down any such difficulties, and in bringing about a good understanding between him and his subjects, you will of course go thither; and in that case I can give you no better instruction than request you to act in regard to circumstances as they arise, according to the dictates of your own excellent judgment and discretion, in furtherance of the friendly feelings which animate Her Majesty's Government towards His Sicilian Majesty and his subjects.

It is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that the present dynasty of Naples should maintain itself on the throne, and that Sicily and Naples should remain united under one and the same Crown, and it was because Her Majesty's Government foresaw dangers to that dynasty and to the union of the two parts of the kingdom in the growing and well-founded discontent of the nation, that Her Majesty's Government so anxiously wished that the King might remove that discontent by timely reforms.

It is probable that much less than he has now been obliged to grant would have satisfied his subjects, if accorded with a good grace some time ago, and it is to be hoped that he will see the wisdom of carrying out with sincerity and good faith the concessions which have been wrung from him, and that he will not endanger his throne by any endeavours to nullify his concessions by the manner in which he may carry them into execution.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 40.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

(Extract.)

Admiralty, February 2, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, extract of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated Malta, the 25th of January last, with its several inclosures, relative to the serious insurrection which occurred at Palermo on the 12th of that month, and copies of the orders and instructions which have passed in connection with the squadron under Sir W. Parker's orders; and I am to request Lord Palmerston's very early instructions thereon.

My Lords have expressed to Sir W. Parker their approbation of the judgment and discretion exhibited by him in determining, until he should receive instructions to the contrary from home, to confine his exertions to the protection of the lives and properties of British subjects.

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Hibernia," Malta, January 25, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the copies of communications which I have received from Lord Napier, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Naples, and my reply thereto relative to the serious insurrection which occurred at Palermo on the 12th instant, as also copies of the orders and instructions which have passed in connexion with the movements of the squadron.

My letter of the 15th instant will have apprized their Lordships that the "Bulldog" was detached to Palermo on the 10th from the squadron, in anticipation of revolt on the 12th, and on the first intimation which reached me here on the 17th instant (before the receipt of Lord Napier's letter) of the actual state of things, the "Vengeance" was ordered to sea, and sailed on the following day for Palermo, with a large supply of provisions to meet any contingency, for the reception of Her Majesty's subjects who might seek refuge on board, as well as to replenish the "Thetis" and "Bulldog," if necessary.

By letters dated the 20th instant which I received from Captain Codrington by a Neapolitan steamer on the 22nd, everything was quiet at Messina. He had taken up an admirable position with the "Thetis," and appears to have been exercising the soundest judgment in all his proceedings. The copy of his orders to Captain Robb will show that the "Gladiator" had been prudently sent on to Palermo; and he informs me that the "Vengeance" also passed in sight of Messina on her way to Palermo on the 20th.

I shall derive much satisfaction if the course I have prescribed for myself meets their Lordships' approbation.

Every exertion is making to put the "Porcupine" in a state for proceeding to sea, and as soon as she is ready I shall dispatch her to Naples and appropriate her temporarily for the conveyance of such communications as Lord Napier may have to forward. She will first touch at Messina to communicate with Captain Codrington, and then at Civita Vecchia, with despatches of importance from his Excellency the Governor of this island and myself for Lord Minto, from whom I may perhaps obtain information for my guidance with respect to the views of Her Majesty's Government as regards the disposition of the squadron at this crisis, before any instructions can reach me from England.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

Lord Napier to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

[See Inclosure 1 in No. 14.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 40.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

"Hibernia," Malta, January 18, 1848.

LATE last night I had the honour of receiving by the French mail packet your Lordship's despatch of the 14th instant, communicating the important events that had occurred at Palermo and Messina.

I am much obliged to your Lordship for this information, and thankfully appreciate the obliging exertions of Mr. Lyon in conveying the despatch with which you entrusted him for me to Palmas Bay, but I quitted that anchorage with the squadron on the 10th instant, and arrived in this harbour on the 15th, and consequently did not receive it.

Some hours before your Lordship's intelligence of the 14th reached me I was apprized of the rebellious outbreak at Palermo and Messina, and immediately ordered the "Vengeance," of 81 guns, to prepare to start for the former, and the "Gladiator" steam-frigate (which conveys this) to the latter point for the protection of the British interests, and I hope both will sail to-day.

I am very glad that Captain Codrington accorded with your Lordship's suggestions of proceeding at once to Messina with the "Thetis."

Captain Lushington will now be the senior officer on the coast of Sicily, and the progress of events will determine whether he will move to Messina or appear at Naples.

I have directed the various officers commanding Her Majesty's ships to confine their operations to the protection of British subjects; but from the altered position of the contending parties I have authorized them to afford refuge on board Her Majesty's ships to individuals of either side, whose lives or liberty may be endangered for their political acts.

I shall be very happy whenever it may be in my power to place one of Her Majesty's steam-vessels at Naples for the conveyance of any important communications from your Lordship; but I regret I have none available at present; but I hope to have a small one ready in the course of a week or ten days, when her commander shall be instructed to communicate with your Lordship and to give his best attention to any requisition which you may make to him or the senior officer present for Her Majesty's service.

I have desired Captain Codrington to send the "Gladiator" to Naples as soon as she can be spared from Messina.

I shall await with anxiety the result of the outbreak in Sicily and the effect it may produce at Naples; in the meantime the squadron here will proceed in obtaining the necessary supplies and repairs which they require, in readiness for any service.

Inclosure 4 in No. 40.

Orders issued by Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

By Sir William Parker, Bart., G.C.B., &c.

HAVING received intimation that a rebellion has broken out at Palermo and Messina against the Neapolitan Government, and as large reinforcements of troops have been sent from Naples to repel the insurrectionists, it is probable that if the resistance of the latter is continued, both places may be subjected to bombardment.

It is therefore my direction that you proceed with all possible expedition in Her Majesty's ship "Vengeance" under your command to

Palermo, for the protection of the persons and property of Her Majesty's subjects who are resident there.

You will on your arrival take under your orders Commander Key of the "Bulldog," who is now stationed there for a similar purpose.

Commander Key will put you in possession of the orders under which he is acting, and in the spirit of them you will abstain from any interference with the existing political dissensions; but in cases where the lives or liberties of individuals of either party may be compromised for their political acts, you are authorized to afford them refuge on board Her Majesty's ship.

This must however be done with caution and discretion, and in all cases it is desirable that you should satisfy yourself thoroughly of the representations that may be made to you relative to the true position of persons thus applying to you for protection, providing for their removal as soon as possible from Sicily, as it will be equally objectionable and inconvenient to retain them long on board Her Majesty's ships.

The "Thetis" is gone from Naples to Messina for a similar purpose, and as we have reports from a vessel which arrived yesterday, that much firing had recently occurred in the vicinity of the latter place, it is desirable so soon as the "Bulldog" can be spared, that you detach Commander Key to Messina to ascertain the posture of affairs there, and on receiving information thereon it will be at your discretion to proceed with the "Vengeance" to Messina, or to strengthen Captain Codrington with the "Bulldog" or not, as you may deem best for British interests.

The "Gladiator" is detached to-day direct to Messina, but it is uncertain whether she may be retained there or find it necessary to proceed to Naples to be in communication with Her Majesty's Legation at that city, and to afford protection to British subjects resident there, should it be necessary.

The ample supply of provisions that you have on board will enable you to complete the "Thetis" to at least three months of all species, and you will keep me acquainted with your proceedings by every opportunity.

I inclose for your guidance an order relative to refugees who may be admitted on board.

Should you receive intimation from Lord Napier, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Naples, or other certain source, of any serious tumult being apprehended at Naples, you are at liberty to proceed thither in the "Vengeance," continuing on this service until further orders.

Given on board the "Hibernia," at Malta, the 18th January. 1848.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

To Stephen Lushington, Esq.,
Captain of H. M. ship "Vengeance"

Inclosure 5 in No. 40.

Orders issued by Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

By Sir William Parker, Bart., G.C.B., &c.

HAVING received intimation that the cities of Palermo and Messina are in a state of open rebellion against the Neapolitan Government, and that firing of two days' continuance was recently observed in the vicinity of the latter place, to which Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" has proceeded from Naples, it is my direction that you repair with the utmost expedition to Messina, where you will put yourself under the orders of Captain Codrington for the protection of the persons and property of Her Majesty's subjects resident there, and should you not find the "Thetis," you will immediately communicate with the British Consul and make the best arrangements in your power for the above purpose, avoiding interference in the existing political dissensions; but you are hereby authorized to afford refuge on board Her Majesty's steam-ship to persons of either party whose lives or liberty are placed in jeopardy by their political acts.

When your presence is no longer required at Messina, unless you receive other directions from Captain Lushington of the "Vengeance" (which is ordered to Palermo) or from Captain Codrington of the "Thetis,"

you are to proceed to Naples for any communications which Lord Napier, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, may have to forward from thence to Malta, where you are to rejoin my flag; but you may remain at Naples, should the state of the country render it desirable, until you receive further orders.

Such continuance however at Naples should result from a requisition from his Lordship expressive of the necessity thereof.

You will deliver the accompanying despatch to Captain Codrington, and cause that addressed to Lord Napier to be sent by the earliest safe conveyance.

Given on board the "Hibernia," at Malta, the 18th January, 1848.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

To John Robb, Esq.

Captain of H. M. steam-ship "Gladiator."

Inclosure 6 in No. 40.

Orders issued by Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

By Sir William Parker, Bart., G.C.B., &c.

HAVING received a despatch from the Right Honourable Lord Napier dated the 14th instant, acquainting me of the insurrection which had broken out in Sicily, and that you had repaired in the "Thetis" to Messina, I lose no time in detaching the "Gladiator" to join you, and you will take Captain Robb under your orders for the protection of the persons and property of British subjects.

The "Vengeance" will also proceed immediately for similar purposes to Palermo, and Captain Lushington is instructed to communicate with you by the "Bulldog" as soon as that vessel can with propriety be detached, he to repair himself to Messina should circumstances render it expedient.

From the state of feeling at Naples it appears desirable that one of Her Majesty's ships should be there also, and Lord Napier expresses a strong wish to have a steamer sent to convey his communications, but I have none available at present.

You will therefore use your discretion in detaching the "Gladiator" to Naples according to the accounts which you may receive from thence, and the expediency of her remaining at Messina.

It is unnecessary to give you any further instructions on the subject of non-interference in the political dissensions in the Neapolitan dominions, but from the altered position of the opposite parties you are authorized to extend refuge on board Her Majesty's ships to persons of either party who may be compromised, conforming to the tenor of my memorandum of the 31st December, 1847.

I have directed Captain Lushington to complete the "Thetis" with provisions for three months from the "Vengeance" whenever you may meet.

You will keep me informed by every opportunity of what is passing, and be guided by circumstances as to your return to Naples or continuance at Messina or Palermo.

Given on board the "Hibernia," at Malta, the 18th January, 1848.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

To Henry J. Codrington, C.B.

Captain of H. M. ship "Thetis."

Inclosure 7 in No. 40.

Lord Napier to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

(Extract.)

Naples, January 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that by the last intelligence from Palermo that city was still in the hands of the insurgents.

The reinforcements dispatched by the Neapolitan Government landed

at the Mole, about half a mile from the seat of action, on the afternoon of the 15th.

During the 16th the steam-vessels kept up a fire upon the town, but the land forces are not believed to have made a serious attack upon the popular defences.

Yesterday, 17th instant, a steam-vessel returned to Naples for provisions and has taken in tow a brig which is said to be destined for a hospital ship.

His Royal Highness the Count of Aquila after visiting both Palermo and Messina has returned to Naples.

A great uncertainty prevails, all ostensible communication between the Foreign Legations here and their respective Consuls at Palermo having been suspended, and I have no letters either from Mr. Goodwin or the Captain of Her Majesty's steam-frigate "Bulldog."

Inclosure 8 in No. 40.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

"*Hibernia*," Malta, January 23, 1848.

BY Major Moore, of Her Majesty's 54th Regiment, who arrived here yesterday in the Neapolitan steam-packet, I had the honour of receiving your Lordship's duplicate despatch of the 18th January, as also communications from Captain Codrington of the "*Thetis*," dated the 20th instant.

I am much pleased with the judicious arrangements which have been made by that excellent officer, and I learn that everything remained quiet at Messina up to the period of Major Moore's departure.

I trust that the "*Vengeance*" has ere this reached Palermo, and as she is well stored with provisions I have no apprehensions on that score.

I hope to dispatch the "*Poreupine*" to Naples a few days hence. Your Lordship is I conclude by this time aware why I am desirous of the "*Gladiator*'s" return.

I have not as yet received any communication from Commander Key of the "*Bulldog*," but am pleased with all I hear of that officer's proceedings, and am satisfied of the zeal, ability and rectitude with which he will carry out my instructions.

Inclosure 9 in No. 40.

Lord Napier to Captain Codrington.

[See Inclosure 8 in No. 25.]

Inclosure 10 in No. 40.

Captain Codrington to Captain Robb.

Sir,

"*Thetis*," Messina, January 19, 1848.

IN compliance with instructions from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, it is my direction that you proceed with all dispatch in Her Majesty's ship under your command to Palermo, where you may expect the "*Bulldog*," even if the "*Vengeance*" has not yet arrived there.

In the case of the non-arrival of the "*Vengeance*" you will use your own judgment according to circumstances, in remaining for a time at Palermo, or in proceeding at once on your voyage to Naples. Should Palermo be in such a disturbed state as to make it desirable for the protection of British life and property as well as for political reasons, that the "*Gladiator*" should remain there in addition to the "*Bulldog*," you are to continue there until the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "*Vengeance*,"

when Captain Lushington will judge of the propriety of your proceeding to Naples. If on your arrival you find all quiet and settled at Palermo, you will, after communicating with the "Bulldog" and receiving such letters as the Consul or British residents may wish to send, proceed with all dispatch to Naples and furnish to his Excellency Lord Napier, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, with any information you may be able to procure about political events, &c., in Sicily.

You are to inform his Lordship that the exigencies of the service require your speedy return to Malta, in obedience to the directions of the Commander-in-chief, and as soon as his Lordship has delivered to you any despatches he may wish to send to the Commander-in-chief at Malta or to this place, you will put to sea and proceed to rejoin the flag at that port with all dispatch, calling at Messina on your way thither.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. J. CODRINGTON.

No. 41.

The Right Hon. E. J. Stanley to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 5, 1848.

I AM directed by Viscount Palmerston to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, inclosing by direction of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of a despatch from Sir William Parker, inclosing copies of the orders and directions which he has issued to Her Majesty's squadron with reference to the insurrection which has lately occurred at Palermo. In reply I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners that the arrangements made by Sir William Parker seem to his Lordship very judicious.

I am further directed to inform you that Viscount Palmerston understands from the Earl of Minto that he has written to Sir William Parker, to say that the insurrection having broken out in Sicily, the motives which led him to recommend Sir William Parker not to visit Naples no longer exist, and that in the then state of affairs he thought that the presence of Sir William at Naples might be useful.

No. 42.

The Governor of Malta to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 7.)

My dear Lord,

Valetta, January 25, 1848.

I INCLOSE your Lordship a translation of a letter received here by a Sicilian long settled in this island, and in the difficulty of obtaining information I thought your Lordship would be glad to get it from every quarter. There is a constant intercourse with Sicily by country boats, yet although every crew is questioned they can tell nothing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. MORE O'FERRALL.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Letter addressed to a Sicilian Resident in Malta.

My dear friend,

Naples, January 18, 1848.

I HAVE now a little more time to write to you, although the state of affairs has not calmed, seeing that the ferment and disorder are such as not to give one a moment's peace, whilst although the Neapolitans have

not yet broken out into open rebellion, everything is prepared for a movement; though the eye of a stranger would scarcely perceive the true state of things, still he would observe that the city is in a state of siege, being continually patrolled by strong detachments of troops, but such precautions will not quell the insurrectionary movement, they will rather tend to excite a greater resistance on the part of the people. Let us now turn to the state of affairs at Palermo, where a revolution has taken place surpassing all those mentioned in the history of these countries, because never did popular outbreak exceed it in violence, while it was so well directed that the property of individuals was never so well respected, inasmuch that the theft of any article was declared punishable with death. The public bank has been respected, and an examination of the deposits made, in order that in due time they may be returned to the proprietors. It is a fine sight to see such perfect order in the interior of the city at a moment when the brave citizens are contending for their liberties. Gun-fire of the 12th January was the signal of the insurrection; at that sound the people in arms rushed into the streets, and thence proceeded to assemble outside the city, thus avoiding the troops and giving them time to occupy the fortified positions. Towards evening the people of the neighbourhood poured in; the city was then brilliantly illuminated, all the theatres and coffee-houses opened by order, and the men who had taken arms were allowed to eat and drink as much as they liked on presenting a yellow card duly numbered, and they received at the same time four carlini a-day for their pay. A Junta of four men of integrity, namely, the Admiral Ruggiero Settimo, Duca di Serradifalco, the Prince of Scordia, and the Prince of Monteleone, have the government of the city, which they administer to perfection. A secret committee directs the military operations exceedingly well; the monks and nuns are charged with the care of the wounded, &c.; a contribution of 400,000 ducats has been raised; the young men fight most bravely and have confined the troops to the forts. They have defeated in the open plain the nine battalions which with a fleet of as many steamers commanded by the best general, the Marshal Desaget, had arrived to subdue them. Last night the Prince Louis Count of Aquila, the King's brother, started with concessions and as the King's lieutenant to obtain a truce. It is certain that the King has been obliged to yield and that the people have got the best of this contest, the troops having been reduced to such extremities; but it is not known what terms are to be offered at Palermo by the Prince Lieutenant. Naples will not be quieted by such frivolous concessions.

No. 43.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 8, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's several despatches on the subject of the insult offered to Her Majesty's Government by the removal of the Royal arms from the residence of Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, I have to inform you that I have stated to Prince Castelcicala that Her Majesty's Government will be satisfied if those arms are formally replaced by the Government authorities and if a suitable apology is made by them to the Consul.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 13.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 26, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, the former of which contains a protest against the bombardment of the city, signed by Mr. Goodwin in common with all his colleagues except the Austrian Consul.

The accompanying plan of the city of Palermo may assist your Lordship in following the detail of the military operations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, January 21, 1848.

IN my last I described to your Lordship the military operations from the 13th to the 20th instant; I now do myself the honour to relate the civil proceedings during the same eventful period.

On the 14th instant the municipality of Palermo having joined the Provisional Committee of Public Safety, the united body was divided into four sections, called the Committees of Supply, War, Revenue, and Correspondence, the presidents of which were the Pretore (lord mayor) of the city (the Marchese Spedalotto), the Prince of Pantelleria, the Marchese Rudini, and Marshal Settimo, respectively. These sections, composed of noblemen of high rank, advocates of eminence, merchants of capital, and authors of reputation, tended to conciliate public favour in behalf of the new Government, which established its residence in the Casa Pretoria of the city, and in the heart of the town.

The first step of the Committee of Revenue to raise a fund for the public service was fully successful.

Contributions poured in rapidly and largely from all ranks of society. The nobility, the clergy, regular and secular, the monastic orders, male and female, the learned professions, the landed interest, the mercantile community, and the wholesale and retail dealers, vied with each other in making their patriotic offerings. The contributions, amounting already to £2,500, go on increasing daily.

A long correspondence has lately taken place between the Lord Lieutenant and the Prætor, of which the following is the substance.

The Lord Lieutenant having as a private individual invited the Prætor to call upon him and receive proposals for an armistice, the Prætor answered in his public capacity, that the continual bombardment of the city, the burning of the Monte di Pietà, the firing on the Prætor himself and on the foreign Consuls on their way to or from the royal palace under a flag of truce, and the murder of defenceless monks in their peaceful convents, left him no other resource than to refer his Excellency to the General Committee, by whom his proposals would be taken into due consideration.

The Lord Lieutenant in reply excused the violation of a flag of truce on the ground of military misconception, justified the slaughter of the monks on the principle of self-defence, renewed his request for a private conference, and promised not to fire a shot unless fired on himself.

The Prætor in rejoinder declared himself incompetent as Prætor to receive proposals of peace, and again referred his Excellency to the General Committee, adding that if a neutral ground were wanting, that requisite might be found on board Her Majesty's steamer "Bulldog."

The Lord Lieutenant in continuation declined entering into correspondence with an authority not legally constituted, and proposed that

a deputation should be sent in a royal steamer to Naples to lay the state of Sicily before the King.

To this proposal no answer was given. The correspondence having been renewed by the Lord Lieutenant, his Excellency in his public character invited the Prætor to make known to him the wishes of the Sicilian people, for the information of the King.

To this invitation the Prætor replied by stating that the Sicilian people would never lay down their arms until Sicily, represented in a General Parliament at Palermo, adapted her Constitution of 1812 to the present time.

To this declaration the Lord Lieutenant replied that he would send over to Naples to learn the King's pleasure in the matter. Here the correspondence ends.

On Saturday the 15th instant M. Ernest Bresson, the French Consul, accompanied by his colleagues, called on the Lord Lieutenant to request that the bombardment might be suspended, so as to give time for foreigners to embark with their families and effects. The mission was so far successful that twenty-four hours was granted, during which most of the English and Americans went on board their respective ships, where they still remain waiting the result of pending hostilities.

The bombardment having been renewed on Monday the 17th, and extended to all parts of the city, a protest drawn up by M. Bresson was signed on the 19th instant by all the Foreign Consuls, and delivered to General Desaget, of which the following is the substance.

The Consular Body, struck with the unanimity and resolution of the Palermitans, are of opinion that to prevent such disasters and catastrophes as form a stain and an epoch in history, it is needful that a city of nearly 200,000 inhabitants be spared in every case the horrors of a bombardment. Should the Commander of the Royal forces unhappily proceed to that extremity, the undersigned protest beforehand in the name of their several Governments against an act calculated to excite the eternal execration of the civilised world. They especially protest, under all reservations, against the total absence of forms and notices, which had compelled them at the risk of their lives to have recourse to the supreme authority to put a stop to a bombardment by which several foreigners had already lost their lives and their property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JNO. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Protest of the Consular Body against the Bombardment of Palermo.

LE Corps Consulaire, qui se rendit dans la journée du 15 auprès de son Excellence le Lieutenant-Général, pour solliciter en faveur des étrangers une suspension du bombardement, et qui fut assez heureux pour l'obtenir pendant vingt-quatre heures, frappé de l'immense unanimité, de l'exaltation prodigieuse des sentimens de la population Palermitaine, croit avoir à remplir un devoir plus sacré encore. Les Soussignés pensent que pour faire cesser et prévenir d'incalculables désastres, pour empêcher une de ces grandes catastrophes qui font tâche et époque dans l'histoire d'un siècle, il faut que les horreurs d'un bombardement soient épargnées dans tous les cas à une population de deux cent mille âmes, à l'antique et vaste cité de Palerme.

Si cependant, ce qu'à Dieu ne plaise, le Commandant-en-chef des Forces Royales devait en venir à cette extrémité déplorable, les Soussignés protestent d'avance et de toutes leurs forces, aux noms de leurs Gouvernemens, contre un acte fait pour exciter à jamais l'exécration du monde civilisé.

Ils protestent déjà avec toute l'énergie possible, et sous toutes réserves, contre cette absence totale de formes, d'avertissemens, de délai, qui a eu lieu à leur égard, avant qu'au péril de leurs jours ils pussent pénétrer jusqu'à l'autorité supérieure pour arrêter le bombardement com-

mencé, dont plusieurs étrangers ont été victimes dans leurs personnes et leurs propriétés.

Fait à Palermo, le 19 Janvier, 1848, en l'Hôtel Consulaire de France, Porta Macqueda.

Le Consul de France,
ERNEST BRESSON.

Il Console de S. M. Sardie,
ANTONIO MUSSO.

Le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique,
JOHN GOODWIN.

The Consul-General of the United
States of America,
JOHN M. MARSTON.

Le Consul de Sa Majesté le Roi de Prusse,
F. WEDEKIND.

Le Consul de Sa Majesté le Roi de Hanovre,
C. WEDEKIND.

Le Consul de Russie,
GAETANO FIAMMINGO.

L'Agent de la Confédération Suisse,
F. C. HIRZEL.

Le Vice-Consul du Brésil,
F. RUOSCH.

(Translation.)

THE Consular Body, who on the 15th waited on his Excellency the Lieutenant-General, in order to solicit in favour of foreigners a suspension of the bombardment, and who were sufficiently fortunate to obtain it for twenty-four hours, struck with the vast unanimity, with the wonderful exaltation of the sentiments of the populace of Palermo, considers that it has a still more sacred duty to fulfil. The Undersigned consider that, in order to put a stop to and to prevent incalculable disasters, to obviate one of those great calamities which constitute a blot and an epoch in the history of an age, it is requisite that a population of 200,000 souls, that the ancient and vast city of Palermo, should at all events be spared from the horrors of a bombardment.

If, nevertheless, which God forbid, the Commander-in-chief of the royal forces must proceed to this deplorable extremity, the Undersigned protest beforehand, and with all their energies, in the names of their Governments, against an act calculated to call forth for ever the execration of the civilized world. They already protest, with all possible energy, and under all kinds of reservations, against that entire absence of forms, of warnings, of delay, which has occurred in regard to them, before that at the peril of their lives they could reach the superior authorities, in order to put a stop to the bombardment already commenced, of which many foreigners have been the victims in their persons and their properties.

Done at Palermo, the 19th of January, 1848, at the French Consulate, Porta Macqueda.

(Signatures.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 44.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, January 24, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the civil and military proceedings of this place from the 20th to the 23rd instant.

In the afternoon of the 21st indecisive skirmishes took place between the insurgents and the troops in and about the Largo del Palazzo and outside the Porta Nuova, which lasted till night-fall when the combatants separated.

In the evening of the 22nd a sharp but fruitless attack was made on the Finanze. In the night of the 22nd and 23rd a provision waggon was captured by the insurgents on its way from the Castle to the Palace, when some prisoners were made by the captors. In the morning of the 23rd the infantry barracks of the Noviziato, about half a mile north of the Palace and behind the Villa Papireto, were carried by the insurgents who made many prisoners and sustained but little loss. In the course of

the day a party of gendarmes which had proceeded from the Finanze to the Porta Felice, was driven back with loss.

The troops now hold the barracks at the Mole, the Castle, the Finanze and the Palace. Between the Mole and the Castle the troops communicate by water only; the Castle, the Finanze and the Palace communicate by flag or bugle. Their land communication is cut off altogether, the insurgents being masters of the Piano del Ciardone between the Mole and St. Lucia, of the small plain outside of Porta Macqueda, between the Castle and the Palace, and of the Toledo between the Finanze and the Palace. Their line extends from Porta Ossuna to the Capucinelli, thence to the Great Hospital, thence to Porta Castro, and thence (with a branch to the Quartiere della Vittoria and the Quartiere de Borgognoni or cavalry barracks) back to Porta Ossuna. Their position takes in the Palace, the Papireto, the Quartiere San Giacomo and the Cathedral and the streets between the Largo del Palazzo and the Capucinelli. Beyond this they have not an inch of ground.

The Guards, their best troops, have bivouacked in the Largo del Palazzo ever since the 10th, exposed to the inclemency of the weather and the attacks of the insurgents without intermission. The infantry are lodged in the San Giacomo, and the artillery partly in the San Giacomo and partly in the Palace; the cavalry are in the Vittoria and Borgognoni, with the exception of a squadron in the barrack of St. Teresa, close by the Palace.

The reinforcements are still down at the Mole, a few excepted, who have got into the Castle by water, whence they have been unable to advance to the Palace. The loss of the Porta Carini, consequent on that of the Noviziato, will oblige such troops as shall have forced their way through the Piano of Porta Macqueda to go round by the bastion of the Monistero Immacolata to get in at Porta Ossuna.

The daily expenses of the Committee of Public Safety are about 1000oz., to meet which outlay they have the revenue of the city and the voluntary subscriptions. The latter come in fairly. The military hospitals are well organised; native and foreign surgeons attend gratuitously, and ladies of the highest ranks, as the Princess of Scordia and the Duchesses of Monteleone and Gualtieri, visit the sick and wounded.

The Prætor has told the Lord Lieutenant that the offered concessions are insufficient to satisfy the people, and has repeated his demand for the restoration of the Sicilian Constitution of 1812.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 45.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 13.)

(Extract.)

Naples, January 27, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of a communication which has reached me from the chiefs of the Constitutional party at Palermo, and which bears the signatures of many of the most distinguished gentlemen in Sicily.

Their object is to obtain the countenance and mediation of Great Britain in the settlement of those questions which have caused them to take up arms, and in the recovery of those representative institutions which they assert were confirmed to their country by the influence of England in the year 1812.

I have directed Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo to inform the Prætor of the Provisional Government of Palermo, that this paper has been received by Her Majesty's Legation and will be submitted to Her Majesty's Government, and that in the meantime I will avail myself of any opportunity which may offer of giving my assistance to effect the restoration of peace and stop the further effusion of blood.

In conformity with these sentiments I waited on his Excellency

Prince Scilla last evening, and made to him a verbal communication of the desire expressed by the leaders of the revolted party, requesting him to read their letter and to communicate the substance of it to His Sicilian Majesty. His Excellency desired to be allowed to retain the original document for that purpose, but I explained that this could not in reason be allowed, for it bore signatures which might possibly at some subsequent period compromise the safety of the parties concerned and be made the foundation of a charge of treason. Prince Scilla then asked for a copy which I also refused, pointing out to his Excellency that the importance of the representation lay in the character and number of the persons who signed it, without which it would be nothing, and that a copy bearing the enumeration of those signatures would, when given by a Foreign Legation, possess almost the force and validity of an original, and that in addition to this difficulty the language in which the statement was conceived was not such as could justify me in placing it in his hands as an official communication. I added that it was very short and of a very simple import, and that if his Excellency would do me the favour to read it he would find no difficulty in conveying its meaning to His Majesty the King, who would subsequently be enabled to obtain from me personally any further information he might desire. Prince Scilla however refused to peruse the paper, which he continued to regard with great jealousy and aversion, repeating frequently that he must have a copy; that he was Minister of Foreign Affairs; that a *Chargé d'Affaires* could not communicate with His Sicilian Majesty in any other manner than through him, and more to the same purpose; all of which confirmed me in my previous impression that I had no way open but simply to restate the object of the communication of which I had offered him the perusal, requesting him to convey it to His Sicilian Majesty.

This I accordingly did, and took leave of his Excellency.

I shall no doubt be enabled to find some other means of bringing the wishes of the insurgent chiefs under the consideration of the Neapolitan Government, and I venture to submit to your Lordship the following opinions which will guide me until I shall be honoured by your Lordship's instructions.

It appears to me that in the present posture of affairs the mediation of Her Majesty's Legation could only be usefully employed in bringing about a suspension of hostilities, and that it would be vain to consent to employ our good offices for that purpose without a sound basis of action, which would be promptly and gratefully accepted by the insurgent and as it seems at present the victorious party.

Such a basis can in my opinion be only found in the free concession by the Neapolitan Government, of

A general Amnesty;

The appointment of the National Guard;

The convocation of the Sicilian Parliament of 1812, or of some other representative body.

Without an amnesty of the amplest and most explicit character there would be no security for the lives and fortunes of the men to whom Sicily must now probably look as its regenerators and legislators.

Without a National Guard the internal tranquillity would be exposed to all the dangers contingent on the prolonged presence of an enthusiastic and undisciplined populace, which may not be able to sustain the high tone of conduct with which the admonitions and the pay of the aristocratic leaders have hitherto inspired it. It would no doubt be necessary in framing an armistice to concede to the insurgent forces the partial occupation at least of some posts retained by the Royal troops, and such a right had surely better be granted in the common interest to a civic force armed and embodied in some degree under the Royal authority, than to the tumultuous multitude of combatants who at present follow the Sicilian tricolour.

But above all the Neapolitan Government must at once resolve on the concession of the Constitution of 1812 to the Sicilians, or rather I ought to say on an announcement by Royal decree that the Parliament dissolved at the general peace shall be assembled at such or such a date,

for the Sicilian people have always unanimously thought that their living and legitimate Government is that appointed in 1812, and that the subsequent years of arbitrary power have been a long disastrous denial of popular rights which however have not lost their virtue or vitality by such suspension. Nor is it very easy to deny some justice to this view, especially now that the Neapolitan Government has a way open to acknowledge it without inconsistency or self-abasement. By the restoration of the Law of December 1816 to vigour, that article in it is rendered effective which declares that the Sicilian contingent of revenue shall not exceed 5,543,063 ducats without the consent of Parliament.

Now this contingent has gone far beyond the sum specified, and the surplus is therefore henceforward in the strictest sense illegal and can only be justified by the convocation and assent of Parliament.

I am far from asserting the excellence of the Representative Constitution conferred on Sicily under the auspices of Great Britain, or the expediency of reviving it in the present state of Italian politics; but should the insurgent party continue to prevail, I believe the restoration of those institutions to be inevitable, and that it can be effected in a manner compatible with the interests and dignity of the Neapolitan Crown, and that it ought to be done quickly in order that His Sicilian Majesty may reconquer the affections of his people and meet them in a grateful and conciliated temper, which may enable them to correct those imperfections in the scheme of 1812 which they actually recognize and are desirous to reform.

Should then the Neapolitan Government resolve to concede the points enumerated above, I think the interference of Her Majesty's Legation would probably have the happy effect of inducing the revolted and constitutional party to lay down their arms more readily and abide in tolerable confidence the subsequent discussion of their grievances in their national Parliament; for without some kind of security and mediation on the side of a third party, such is the jealousy and hatred that prevails against the present Government of Naples and the fear of treachery, that I apprehend the Sicilian insurgents will never leave the field or relax in their hostilities.

I venture to believe that it would be consistent with the interests of humanity and with the benevolent policy of Great Britain, that under such circumstances I should consent to mediate between the contending parties; but until I be guided by your Lordship's orders I will be careful not to embark in a doubtful enterprise or to hazard the character and influence of Her Majesty's Government in a transaction of the kind, except on such conditions as seem to offer the certain prospect of a successful solution.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Petition of the Chiefs of the Constitutional party in Sicily to Lord Napier.

Eccellenza,

Palermo, Gennaio 1848.

E INUTILE voler adesso ripetere i mali che un Governo ostile ha fatto sinora soffrire alla sventurata Sicilia.

L'Europa conosce abbastanza la nostra desolazione, se non altro per mezzo degli scritti che ultimamente per mancanza di vie legali ha dovuto diffondere la stampa clandestina.

Preghiere, rimostranze, pacifiche dimostrazioni di ogni maniera sono state inutili a far comprendere al Governo il bisogno vero urgentissimo di radicali riforme nelle leggi e nell'amministrazione.

Palermo dunque il giorno 12 di questo mese, forte de' suoi dritti e della opinione non solo della Sicilia ma dell'Italia ancora, ha preso le armi, e già da otto giorni combatte valorosamente e versa il sangue dei suoi prodi per riconquistare quell'istituzioni che la Sicilia possedeva quasi contemporaneamente alla Gran Bretagna, che sotto l'influenza di

questa grande nazione avea riformato nel 1812, e che con un decreto regio 11 Dicembre, 1816, neppure si ebbe l'ardire di derogare.

In mezzo al tumulto delle armi mentre la città valorosamente si difende e fra gli orrori del bombardamento, dell' arsione degli edifizj, e dei crudeli assassinj commessi dai soldati finanche su monaci inermi, giunsero per mezzo del Pretore di Palermo a questo Comitato lettere del Luogotenente-Generale del Rè, per conoscere ciò che il popolo di Palermo desiderasse.

Questo Comitato manifestò che il popolo coraggiosamente insorto, non poserà le armi, non sospenderà le ostilità, se non quando la Sicilia riunita in General Parlamento in Palermo, adatterà ai tempi la sua costituzione, che giurata dai suoi Rè, riconosciuta dalle Potenze, non si è mai osato di togliere apertamente a quest' isola, e che senza questa base qualunque trattativa sarebbe inutile.

Il Luogotenente-Generale rispose che era contento di conoscere alla fine le intenzioni del popolo Siciliano, e che avrebbe subito spedito un vapore in Napoli per farle conoscere al Rè.

Eccellenza, il Comitato parte ed organo fidele della volontà del popolo scrive questo indirizzo mentre migliaia di bravi stanno pur coraggiosamente battendosi, ed ha l'intima convinzione che i voti nostri trionferanno.

In tale stato di cose noi domandiamo l'intervento di un Rappresentante della nazione Britannica, di quella nazione che ha generosamente proclamato le sue simpatie per la causa santa della libertà dei popoli, e domandiamo questo intervento al solo e semplice scopo di avere una solida guarentigia del mantenimento di quella convenzione con la quale questo popolo non deponendo mai le armi avrà riconquistato la sua costituzione che nel diritto non ha mai cessato di possedere.

Eccellenza, se le sue istruzioni le permettono di prestarsi a questo affare, il di lei nome e quello della sua nazione avranno una pagina di riconoscenza e di onore nella storia Siciliana.

Annessiamo tutte le stampe sinora pubblicate che possono servire alla migliore intelligenza dello stato del paese.

I Componenti del Comitato Generale.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palermo, January 1848.

IT is needless now to narrate the ills which a hostile Government has up to the present moment inflicted on unhappy Sicily.

Europe has been made sufficiently acquainted with our misery by means of the writings which lately from want of legal means the clandestine press has been obliged to circulate.

Prayers, remonstrances and pacific demonstrations of all kinds have failed in making the Government comprehend the real urgent need of radical reform in the laws and administration.

Palermo therefore on the 12th of this month, strong in its just rights and not only in the opinion of Sicily but of all Italy, rose in arms and has already bravely fought for eight days, shedding the blood of its brave sons to reconquer those institutions which Sicily possessed as it were contemporaneously with Great Britain, which under the influence of that great nation were reformed in 1812, and which the Government had not the courage to impair in their Decree of the 11th of December, 1816.

In the midst of the turmoil of battle, whilst the city is bravely defending itself midst the horrors of the bombardment, the burning of houses and the cruel murders committed by the soldiers even on unarmed monks, there arrived letters from the King's Lieutenant to this Committee through the Prætor to know what the people of Palermo desired.

This Committee answered that the people having risen bravely would not lay down their arms nor suspend hostilities until Sicily united in General Parliament in Palermo should have established a constitution suited to the times, which, sworn to by its Kings, acknowledged by the Powers, has never been taken openly from this island, and that any negotiation founded upon any other object or basis would be fruitless.

The Lieutenant-General said he was glad to know at last the intentions of the Sicilian people and that he would send off a steamer directly to Naples to communicate them to the King.

Sir, the Committee which forms part and is a faithful organ of the sentiments of the public, is writing this address whilst thousands of brave men are boldly fighting, and has the full conviction that at last our cause will triumph.

In this state of affairs we beg the intervention of a Representative of the British nation, of that nation which has generously proclaimed its sympathy with the cause of the liberty of nations, and we ask for this intervention with the sole object of having a solid guarantee for the maintenance of that convention by which this people without laying down their arms shall have recomposed a constitution which by law it has never ceased to possess.

Sir, if your instructions will permit you to undertake this office, your name and that of your nation will possess a page of gratitude and honour in Sicilian history.

We transmit herewith the publications up to the present moment, which may convey a better idea of the state of affairs.

The members of the General Committee.

No. 46.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 13.)

(Extract.)

Naples, January 27, 1848.

ON the 24th instant I was honoured by a visit from Prince Petrulla, a Sicilian nobleman, who had arrived from Palermo since the declaration of hostilities.

He represented himself to be charged by His Majesty the King with a message to me respecting the state of affairs in Sicily with the view of obtaining the mediation, or rather perhaps employing the good offices of England to promote the restoration of tranquillity.

I had some doubts as to the extent of Prince Petrulla's authority to negotiate, but I told him frankly, with a becoming expression of respect to His Sicilian Majesty, that I did not see how I could be of use unless the Constitution of 1812 or some equivalent form of Representative Government were conceded, for the Sicilians had staked everything for that object and they were inspired by their first success with sentiments of the utmost confidence and resolution. Prince Petrulla professed to return to the King with my reply and I saw no more of him.

No. 47.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 7.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 28, 1848.

HER Majesty's steam-frigate "Gladiator" arrived here from Palermo yesterday afternoon, and Captain Robb has placed in my hands the accompanying letter containing an account of the latest events in the revolted city.

Your Lordship will thus be made acquainted with the capture of the Palace and the Finanze, which includes the public offices as well as the Treasury, and the probable surrender of the castle, which was expected to occur on the following day.

The Constitutional party have thus it may be stated obtained a complete ascendancy at the Sicilian capital. Trapani, Termini, and the towns of the interior have already openly joined the same cause; and the revolution of Messina and Catauia was confidently predicted on the day before yesterday (January 26th).

Two Neapolitan steam-vessels entered the port of Naples at the same time as the "Gladiator," bringing about 150 wounded soldiers. They were immediately visited by His Sicilian Majesty in person.

The intentions of the Neapolitan Government still remain mysterious.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Captain Robb to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Gladiator," Naples, January 27, 1848.

SINCE the date of my last letter much of importance has taken place at Palermo. Shortly after the departure of the "Maria Cristina" the insurgents opened an increasing fire on the Palace, apparently determined that it should surrender, and as the troops had retreated from Porta Ossuna on the previous day, they had the whole of the outer part of the town in their power. A very severe action took place between them in the Palace square, and the point of attack was to obtain possession of the General Hospital and Archbishop's palace, which surrendered about 7 o'clock; the attack was then renewed with increased vigour on the Palace. Seven large pieces of artillery were brought to bear on it and were unceasingly worked until about midnight. At about 5 in the afternoon the castle and some of the steam-vessels began to shell the town without giving any notice, and this was continued at intervals during the night of the 25th; about 2 o'clock the firing ceased, and at daylight on the morning of the 26th the tricolour was seen flying on the observatory of the Palace, and it was made known that the Luogotenente, General Vial, with a small body of troops escaped by a back way from the Palace by the Olivuzza road and retreated to the barracks at the Mole, suffering a loss of forty or fifty men.

At daylight, or shortly after, the troops in the Palace under Major Ascenzo surrendered to the insurgents, and were received with caresses. Much damage was of course sustained in the Palace. All the chandeliers, glasses, marble tables, and furniture were destroyed, but the chapel and paintings were preserved. In the afternoon the guns were brought to bear on the Finanze, but at 5 o'clock it surrendered without firing a shot. The troops and police marched out and were received with the utmost kindness by the insurgents who received them as brothers; but I regret to have to state that there was about thirty or forty sbirri also in the Finanze whom the people immediately seized, and would have instantly sacrificed them to their vengeance but for the interference of some influential priests or people among them; about eight or ten however were shot or killed on the spot. As soon as the bank surrendered, the cannon were placed in positions to bear on the castle, with a summons to surrender. Colonel Gross, who commands the castle, requested twenty-four hours to consider. The people gave him twelve hours or until daylight this morning, when it was expected that he would surrender on condition that the garrison would be allowed to march with their arms to the barracks on the Mole, where they may be permitted to embark or remain as the Marshal might order, but not to fight against the Sicilians.

The arrival of the "Vengeance" in the evening relieved me from the duty of remaining at Palermo, and I left it at 10 o'clock last night.

Everything was quiet, not a musket or gun was heard, and the silence formed a striking contrast with the cannonade of the previous day.

I gave Captain Lushington of the "Vengeance," a detail of all that had taken place, and he has the "Bulldog" at liberty to forward any despatch to the Admiral or your Lordship.

There is nothing to fear on the part of the people towards the English,

every kind of property has been scrupulously respected, and no instance of cruelty, robbery, or outrage has come to my knowledge except the disgraceful massacre of the unfortunate sbirri.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ROBB.

No. 48.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 13.)

(Extract.)

Naples, January 31, 1848.

THE Royal ordinance of the 29th instant herewith transmitted, containing the basis of a Representative Constitution for the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, gave signal satisfaction to the Liberals of Naples, but to the Sicilians it appeared fraught with suspicion and danger.

Sicily was indeed not separately mentioned and no particular provision was introduced for the settlement of its claims, but the scheme of Government promised to the kingdom seemed to imply constructively a legislative union, and thus the rejection and repeal of the Sicilian Constitution of 1812, which is dear to that nation.

The first apprehensions have been confirmed by the reports which have transpired during the course of yesterday.

Prince Cassaro and several other Sicilian gentlemen of rank and influence have united in a strong representation to the King in support of their right to a national and separate Parliament, in obtaining which they eagerly desire the good offices of Great Britain. In the new Council of Ministers M. Scovazzo and M. Bozzelli, men of predominant ability, are of the same view.

There is a strong root of separate nationality in Sicily. The history of that country diverges in many epochs and in many particulars from that of Naples, and thanks to the protection and ascendancy of Great Britain it did not even in the general catastrophe fall under the conquest of a foreign Power, but was preserved to its legitimate Sovereign, who by the advice of Great Britain confirmed and improved the ancient institutions of the island in the Parliament of 1812.

The Sicilians assert with pride that neither when attached to the vast dominion of ancient Spain, nor when incorporated with the monarchical confederacy of the Bourbon family after the Spanish line expired, have they ever lost the tradition of a national Parliament. Under the stern rule of Philip II, against the levelling arts of Charles III, they maintained their Baronial assemblies, and when the Feudal system fell those mediæval forms were modified in a Constitution still embodying the aristocratical principle, which, established under the care of a great and as they fondly believe a kindred nation, was recognized by the laws of 1816, and though arbitrarily dissolved and suspended ever since, has not lost its legitimate force nor died in the remembrance or the affections of the people.

It is true that in 1820 the revolutionary Government of Naples attempted to force the Radical Constitution on Sicily, and for a time partially succeeded through the instrumentality of General Pepe, who induced the Provisional Government of Palermo to embrace a capitulation which was to have been submitted to the Parliament of Naples had the latter not been prematurely subverted by the Austrian intervention; but the validity of this act of apparent conformity could never be recognized by the Sicilians, who are prepared to renew the struggle with a perfect confidence of success.

For many nations who have suffered from the abuses of a despotic usurpation, the grant of constitutional freedom has rather the illusion of a charm than the efficacy of a cure, but the chances of such a deplorable issue to a patriotic design are infinitely increased when the form of representative institution introduced is unknown, and odious to the nation itself, hostile to its traditions, its aspirations, and interests; and all this at the present moment may be asserted against a scheme of legislative

union and incorporation between Sicily and Naples. The very populace of Palermo would scorn the offer of such a doubtful and distant benefit. They remember the "times of the English," they have heard of the "Constitution of 1812," in which their own Sicilian Lords and Deputies sat in their native capital; but the presentation of a new fangled Neapolitan paper project would disgust and exasperate them; it is not for that that they have shed their blood and repulsed 12,000 Neapolitan troops; they will not now suffer themselves to be absorbed by the people they have beaten. Such will doubtless be the popular feelings on this subject in Sicily. I do not assert the wisdom or expediency of a permanent legislative separation between the two great provinces of one realm, but I humbly maintain that their union ought not to be hasty and superficial, but that it ought to be the result of deliberate and mature discussion and mutual confidence and concession, without which it would become the worst kind of nominal union but of practical jealousy and discord.

So deep, my Lord, is my sense of the danger which the Neapolitan Government is perhaps about to incur by refusing or delaying the concessions to Sicily of the Constitution of 1812, that I have, after taking the opinions of Prince Cassaro and M. Scovazzo, the new Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, strongly urged the Earl of Minto to repair without delay to Naples; and I have requested Mr. Fagan to proceed to Rome for that purpose and with the view of explaining more fully to his Lordship the position of affairs, which Mr. Fagan's great experience of this country and early knowledge of Sicily will enable him to do. I have also felt that at the present crisis the authority of a Representative of Great Britain whose superior dignity and experience would entitle him to demand the right of personal conference with His Sicilian Majesty might be desirable. In this view the Liberal party in Naples coincide; and I must add in justice to them, that the great majority of their number are opposed to the employment of coercive measures against their fellow-subjects in Sicily, and desire that the latter should have a free selection between the General Parliament projected by Government and the separate Constitution of 1812.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Royal Ordinance granting a Representative Constitution for the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

Ferdinando II, &c.:

AVENDO inteso il voto generale de' nostri amatissimi sudditi di avere delle garantigie, e delle istituzioni conformi all' attuale incivilimento, dichiariamo di essere nostra volontà di condisendere a' desiderii manifestati, concedendo una Costituzione; e perciò abbiamo incaricato il nostro nuovo Ministero di Stato di presentarci, non più tardi di dieci giorni, un progetto per essere da noi approvato sulle seguenti basi:

Il Potere legislativo sarà esercitato da noi e due Camere, cioè, una di Pari e l'altra di Deputati; la prima sarà composta d'individui da noi nominati, la seconda lo sarà di Deputati da scegliersi dagli elettori sulle basi di un censo che verrà fissato.

L'unica religione dominante dello Stato sarà la Cattolica Apostolica Romana, e non vi sarà tolleranza di altri culti.

La persona del Re sarà sempre sacra, inviolabile, e non soggetta a responsabilità.

I Ministri saranno sempre responsabili di tutti gli atti del Governo.

Le forze di terra e di mare saranno sempre dipendenti dal Re.

La guardia nazionale sarà organizzata in modo uniforme in tutto il regno, analogamente a quella della capitale.

La stampa sarà libera, e soggetta solo ad una legge repressiva per tutto ciò che può offendere la religione, la morale, l'ordine pubblico, il Re, la Famiglia Reale, i Sovrani esteri e loro famiglie, non che l'onore e gl' interessi de' particolari.

Facciamo nota al pubblico questa nostra sovrana e libera risoluzione, e confidiamo nella lealtà e rettitudine de' nostri popoli, per veder mantenuto l'ordine e il rispetto dovuto alle leggi ed alle autorità costituite.

Napoli, 29 Gennaio, 1848.

(Firmato)

FERDINANDO.

*Il Ministro Segretario di Stato Presidente
del Consiglio di Ministri,*

(Firmato) DUCA DI SERRA CAPRIOLA.

(Translation.)

Ferdinand II, &c.

HAVING been made aware of the general wishes formed by our well-beloved subjects to have guarantees and institutions in accordance with the present state of civilization, we declare that it is our will to comply with the desire made known to us, by granting a Constitution; and we have therefore charged our new Ministry of State to present to us within the period of ten days, for our approval, a scheme on the following bases:—

The legislative Power shall be exercised by us and by two Chambers, that is to say, one of Peers and the other of Deputies; the former shall be composed of individuals named by us, and the latter of Deputies to be elected by the electors on the basis of a property qualification which shall be determined.

The sole dominant religion of the State shall be the Roman Catholic Apostolic, and other worship shall not be tolerated.

The person of the King shall always be sacred, inviolable, and irresponsible.

The Ministers shall always be responsible for all the acts of the Government.

The land and sea forces shall always be dependent on the King.

The national guard shall be organised in a uniform manner throughout the kingdom, similar to that of the capital.

The press shall be free, and subject only to a repressive law in everything which may offend religion, morals, public order, the King, the Royal Family, foreign princes and their families, as well as the honour and interests of private individuals.

We make known to the public this our sovereign and free resolution, and we confide in the loyalty and uprightness of our people that order and the respect due to the laws and constituted authorities will be maintained.

Naples, 29th January, 1848.

(Signed)

FERDINAND.

*The Minister Secretary of State, President of
the Council of Ministers,*

(Signed) DUKE OF SERRA CAPRIOLA.

No. 49.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 13.)

My Lord,

Rome, February 1, 1848.

YOUR Lordship has been informed by Lord Napier that the Neapolitan Government, defeated in Sicily and unable to cope with the insurrection, has consented to the establishment of a Representative form of Government in the King's dominions.

I believe that it may have been too late to stop short of this measure, which a week or two earlier they might have escaped by timely concessions, less calculated to produce new agitation in other parts of Italy.

It still remains to be seen whether the Sicilians will renounce their separate Government for an united Legislature with Naples. It appears to me improbable that they should do so; but I am told by well-informed persons here that I am mistaken, and that a sentiment of Italianism strong

enough to prevail over local interests and feelings, has of late years grown up in Sicily.

The question however is one on which it may be desirable that we should be in early possession of the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government.

There can be no doubt, on general principles, of the superior advantage of such a Legislative Union, to which a good deal of importance is here attached as bearing on Italian interests in common; but it would appear to me very unadvisable to attempt to impose it by force on the Sicilians, should they persist in their objection to the measure.

It is very probable that my presence at Naples may now be desired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 50.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 13.)

(Extract.)

Rome, February 2, 1848.

MR. FAGAN arrived here last night with despatches of so much importance from Lord Napier, that I have thought it necessary to forward them by special messenger to your Lordship; and it is my intention in compliance with the wish so strongly conveyed to me by Lord Napier, to proceed myself to Naples to-morrow, although I must confess without much expectation of finding that my presence there can have any effect.

The first object at present must be to bring the Sicilian Question to an immediate close upon almost any terms. It is comparatively of little consequence whether they are to have an united Parliament or separate Constitutions; but it is of the utmost importance that no time should be lost in concluding the arrangement.

I this morning waited upon the Pope in order to communicate the information I had received from Lord Napier, and to urge His Holiness to employ his good offices in expediting a final arrangement.

I found an hesitation in the Pope. He said that he felt a difficulty in publicly advising the acceptance of a Constitution of which it might be said he did not approve, inasmuch as he would not admit of it in his own State.

I said that I addressed him as an Italian Sovereign, and that I could not understand on what principle he was to allow the opinion of three remote Powers, the most opposed to his own policy, to shut his mouth on a question of vital interest in Italy.

He yielded to this, and said that he would consider what steps he could take at Naples and Palermo to urge a speedy arrangement.

I have no time to report what passed during a long conversation in which I endeavoured to satisfy him, and I think with success, that the question of a separate or united Constitution was one of little importance beyond the two States which it concerned, the foreign relations of whose common Sovereign it need not affect. That every other consideration should give way to the manifest danger of prolonged indecision. That if the Palermitans could be induced to accede to the Constitution which had been offered by the King, it would be well; but that should they persist, as I thought more likely, in their demand for a separate legislature, it was desirable that they should obtain it without delay. The Pope appeared to me to assent to this. But there is a want of energy and promptitude in the action of this Government which does not allow me to calculate upon much assistance from that quarter.

No. 51.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 13.)

My Lord,

Rome, February 2, 1848.

I HAVE received an application from the General Committee of Palermo, soliciting my intervention as affording them the protection of a guarantee in negotiation with their Sovereign.

As this document agrees verbatim with a similar application made to Lord Napier, I have not thought it necessary to transmit a copy to your Lordship.

I shall inform the Committee of my readiness to do them any good office in my power towards a reconciliation with their Government, but that I cannot officially interpose nor make Her Majesty's Government a party to any engagements that may be agreed to.

Should your Lordship have any instructions to give on this subject I would suggest that they may be addressed to Lord Napier, as it is not likely that they would find me still at Naples.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

No. 52.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 13.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 3, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a note addressed to Her Majesty's Legation by the Duke of Serra Capriola, requesting the mediation of the Representatives of Great Britain and France, with the view of arresting the civil war in Sicily.

I have the honour to submit to your Lordship the accompanying reply to the same, stating that the mediation of Her Majesty's Legation would be conditional on an assurance that before proceeding to any compulsory incorporation or legislative union between Naples and Sicily, the sentiments of the Sicilians should be consulted in a separate National Assembly convoked for that purpose.

I avoided mentioning the Parliament of 1812 by name, having been informed that any allusion to that Constitution is distasteful to His Sicilian Majesty, whose gracious desire it is to appear in the benignant character of a spontaneous and original benefactor of his people.

I have not yet had an official answer to my note, but I was last night informed by the best authority, that His Sicilian Majesty has resolved to grant to Sicily a separate Representative Constitution comprising two Chambers, the details of which it will be my duty to lay before your Lordship on a subsequent occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52.

The Duke of Serra Capriola to Lord Napier.

Napoli, 1 Febbraio, 1848.

ANIMATO il Re del Regno delle Due Sicilie da costante e vivissimo desiderio di vedere sempre più progredire la prosperità de' suoi Stati ed il benessere de' suoi sudditi, ha creduto darne la più alta e convincente pruova collo andare alto incontro del voto ch'essi formavano, adottando il Regime Costituzionale nelle forme del suo Real Governo mediante l'Atto Sovrano del 29 del passato mese.

Mentre Sua Maestà vede con giubilo la pace più perfetta regnare nella parte de' suoi Reali Domini al di qua del Faro, con vivo dolore dell' animo suo conosce che l'altra parte oltre Faro è immersa nelle discordie civili.

Il Re in questa dolorosa emergenza, che non lascia di affliggerlo profondamente, desiderando ardentemente pel bene dell' umanità evitare con tutti i mezzi in suo potere, l'effusione del sangue de' suoi sudditi, ha comandato al Sottoscritto, Ministro Segretario di Stato degli Affari Esteri, Presidente del Consiglio de' Ministri, di rivolgersi a Lord Napier, Incaricato d'Affari di Sua Maestà la Regina della Bretagna, ed al Signor Conte di Montessuy, Incaricato d'Affari di Sua Maestà il Re de' Francesi, e d'interessarli a mettersi mediatori nella loro qualità di Rappresentanti di due grandi Potenze amiche, onde abbia a cessare qualunque atto ostile in quella parte de' Reali Domini, per evitare una ulteriore effusione di sangue, e potersi in seguito con calma conoscere le difficoltà che possono ancora esistere pel completo ristabilimento dell' ordine, tranquillità e sicurezza pubblica.

Il Sottoscritto nel portare ciò alla conoscenza di Lord Napier, si augura che dal canto suo vorrà prestarsi alle brame del Re, e profitta, &c.

(Firmato) **DUCA DI SERRA CAPRIOLA.**

(Translation.)

Naples, February 1, 1848.

THE King of the Two Sicilies inspired by a constant and ardent desire for the prosperity of his States and the well-being of his subjects, has determined to give a most certain and convincing proof thereof by complying with the wishes expressed by them, and adopting the Constitutional system of Government, according to the Royal Decree of the 29th ultimo.

Whilst His Majesty beholds with delight the most perfect tranquillity predominating in that part of his Royal dominions on this side the Faro, he perceives with sadness of heart that the other portion beyond the Faro is immersed in civil discords.

The King under these unhappy circumstances, which cannot fail to afflict him profoundly, desiring ardently for the sake of humanity to avoid by every means in his power the effusion of blood, has ordered the Undersigned, &c., to apply to Lord Napier, &c., and to the Count de Montessuy, &c., and to beg them in their quality of Representatives of two great friendly Powers to act as mediators, so that all hostilities may cease in that part of the kingdom and, all further bloodshed being avoided, a calm investigation may be set on foot of the yet existing obstacles to the complete restoration of order, tranquillity and public security.

The Undersigned in making this communication to Lord Napier, trusts that he for his part will agree to the King's proposal, and avails, &c.

(Signed) **DUKE OF SERRA CAPRIOLA.**

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

Lord Napier to the Duke of Serra Capriola.

Naples, February 1, 1848.

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a note from his Excellency the Duke of Serra Capriola, Minister Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and President of the Council of Ministers, by which the Undersigned is informed that His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies has expressed his desire to accept the services of the Undersigned and of the Chargé d'Affaires of His Majesty the King of the French, in the character of mediators, to arrest the effusion of blood in the Island of Sicily and effect the restoration of tranquillity in that distracted country.

The Undersigned is deeply sensible of the importance and benevolence

of His Sicilian Majesty's gracious proposal, and he hastens to present to the Duke of Serra Capriola the expression of his earnest wish to contribute as far as is consistent with his powers to such a humane and salutary object.

The Government of Naples is well aware of the ancient bonds of intimacy and alliance which have long united its interests and policy with those of Great Britain, and that in Sicily especially that alliance assumed during an eventful period under the reign of His Majesty King Ferdinand III in one kingdom, but legitimate Sovereign of both, such a frame of amity, confidence, and mutual aid, as has rarely subsisted between independent nations.

The dignity of the Sicilian Crown and the welfare of the Sicilian people must in consequence of such glorious traditions of a common past ever remain peculiarly dear to the Government of Great Britain; and the Undersigned would be a very imperfect exponent of the feelings of his Government and his country, if he did not confess his ambition to employ all his efforts in confirming the just authority of His Sicilian Majesty and in furthering the contentment and prosperity of his subjects.

The Undersigned must however call the attention of his Excellency the Duke of Serra Capriola to the consideration that the influence which he might possibly exert in establishing peace between the Government of His Sicilian Majesty and a powerful party now unfortunately in arms against the Royal authority, would in a great measure depend upon certain sympathies and recollections having reference to an epoch in which the Sicilian people and that of Great Britain delighted to recognize in the similarity of their respective political institutions additional motives of affection and brotherhood. The Undersigned, in consenting to employ his mediation as an English Representative, would indeed, if he lost sight of the spirit and claims of Sicilian nationality, render himself incapable of all usefulness, and would probably provoke the suspicion and aversion of one of the parties in whom it must be his object to inspire sentiments of moderation and confidence.

That party has raised the standard of revolt in a cause which they are not likely to abandon without some guarantee that in the future organization of their country the wishes and aspirations of Sicilians will obtain a separate impartial consideration, and those wishes can only in their opinion be legitimately expressed in some national assembly of which the previous history of their country offers abundant examples.

The Undersigned consequently feels that he would be embarking the name and influence of the British Government in a hopeless enterprise, should he offer his mediation to the insurgent party of Sicily without being empowered at the same time to assure them on the part of the Neapolitan Government, that no attempt will be made to enforce between the two countries composing the dominions of His Sicilian Majesty, any scheme of legislative incorporation or representative union, without the convocation and consent of a preliminary separate national assembly, in which the Sicilian people shall be represented by their native lords and deputies sitting therein by ancient right and free election, an assembly which would be enabled to bring to the foot of the Throne in a legitimate manner the sense of the whole nation.

To this fundamental security the Undersigned believes that his Excellency the Duke of Serra Capriola will see the expediency of adding for the safety of so many persons compromised by the late events, and in the interest of public tranquillity, the gracious assurance on the part of His Majesty the King, of an amnesty of the amplest character, and the appointment of the National Guard; measures which have already been embraced by the wisdom of His Sicilian Majesty in the peainular portion of the kingdom.

With such conditions as the basis of a practical and useful mediation, the Undersigned would willingly proceed, should such a step be deemed desirable, to the principal seat of hostilities, in company with a commissioner appointed by His Sicilian Majesty to meet a delegate on the part of the Provisional Government and to assist by his good offices and guarantee in negotiating an armistice which would have the effect of

arresting the further effusion of blood in a deplorable and unnatural struggle.

His Royal Highness the Count of Aquila, His Sicilian Majesty's Lord Lieutenant in Sicily, should such prove the gracious will of the King, would then be enabled by his conciliating presence to heal the wounds inflicted during the late unhappy disorders and provide for the convocation of the prescribed Assembly as mentioned above, which would be charged with the duty of offering to His Sicilian Majesty the matured expression of the national sentiments with respect to any posterior organic change of government.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

No. 53.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 16.)

(Extract.)

Naples, February 5, 1848.

I ARRIVED here last night, and have to-day seen Lord Napier and the Duc de Serra Capriola twice. The second time he called upon me to let me know that at the Council to-day it was decided that separate constitutions, though similar in form, should be established for Naples and Sicily; that the Parliaments should respectively legislate for their own country in all those matters which were not of common interest to the two kingdoms; that a committee of the Chambers of the two countries should be formed, in the proportion of two-thirds Neapolitan and one-third Sicilian, as the common legislature for questions of common concern, such as customs duties, the approval of treaties, questions of peace and war, and the civil and criminal law, the military establishment, &c. That the amount of contribution to be levied in Sicily shall not exceed one-fourth of the whole for the united kingdom.

The determination of the Sicilians to resist a legislative union with Naples has led to this attempt at compromise, the acceptance of which in Sicily seems however to be extremely doubtful. In the scheme of constitution now in preparation it is intended to give only a life interest in the Peerage. The Sicilians I am told will stand out for hereditary seats in the Upper House. As I see no necessity for the absolute uniformity of the two constitutions I shall endeavour to prevail upon the Government to give at least to the Sicilians their hereditary Peerage, or Senatorship as they call it; and if the King will not do this I shall endeavour to induce the Sicilians to accept what is offered to them, for I consider the precise conditions of the settlement as of infinitely less consequence than its early conclusion; this too is the feeling of the Liberal party here. A belief exists in Sicily that England will under any circumstances stand by it, and insist upon the restoration of its Constitution of 1812, subject to certain modifications; when they are made clearly to understand that they must not expect this, they may possibly become more accommodating. At present there is some fear here that the Sicilians may altogether throw off their allegiance. The Duke of Serra Capriola told me that the King would communicate to the Representatives of other Powers here the constitution he had thought fit to establish in his dominions.

No. 54.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 16, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 2nd instant, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your having determined to go to Naples, and of the intention and views with which you are about to go there, and Her Majesty's Government would feel very great pleasure if your Lordship should be able by

the employment of your good offices between the King of Naples and his Sicilian subjects, to bring about a satisfactory arrangement between them.

The settlement which would be most consonant with the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, because it would be most conducive to the strength and union of the Neapolitan Monarchy, would be that there should be one Parliament for the whole kingdom, and that Sicily and the Neapolitan provinces should be represented in their due and proper proportions in the two Houses of which that Parliament would consist; but if there should arise any insurmountable obstacles to such an arrangement, then two Parliaments, the one for Naples and the other for Sicily, would become unavoidable.

The difficulties which Her Majesty's Government anticipate as likely to arise as obstacles to one Parliament, are first, that it may be that there are better elements for an hereditary House of Peers in Sicily than in Naples, inasmuch as it is understood that the law of inheritance in Sicily is more favourable to the keeping together hereditary fortunes by means of which an hereditary aristocracy can be maintained in their suitable position; whereas in Naples the French law of inheritance prevails, and that law is not so favourable to the principle of an hereditary aristocracy; and thus while on the one hand the Sicilians may desire to have an hereditary House of Peers, the Neapolitan Government on the other hand may stand out for peerages for life; but means might probably be found to get over this difficulty, and indeed it might perhaps not be impossible to settle that the Sicilian Peers should be hereditary and the Neapolitan for life. Examples would not be wanting in support of such diversity of tenure in one and the same legislative body: for in the British House of Peers for instance, there are found sitting together, first, Peers who hold their seats by hereditary right; secondly, Bishops and Irish Peers who sit for their lives, the former named by the Crown, the latter elected by their Irish fellow Peers; and thirdly, Scotch Peers, who hold their seats only during the Parliament, being elected by the body of Scotch Peers after each dissolution.

The second difficulty may arise from the not unnatural distrust which the Sicilians may feel towards the King and the Government of Naples; for they may possibly think that if they had a Parliament of their own sitting in Sicily, it would not be easy for the King of Naples to put that Parliament down and to abolish it; whereas if their members formed only part of a Parliament sitting at Naples, and which from its local position would be more in the power of the King, if that Parliament were to be crushed by an act of power on the part of the King of Naples, they would be left without any legally organized representation, and they would then have to enter into a new course of resistance to the Crown in order to establish a Parliament in Sicily.

One remedy for this danger might indeed be suggested by the Sicilians, and that would consist in a guarantee to be given them by the British Government singly, or by Great Britain conjointly with some other foreign Power, against any such act of violence and bad faith on the part of their own Sovereign; but to such a guarantee Her Majesty's Government could not be a party. The responsibilities which such an arrangement would involve, would be too embarrassing and too much at variance with sound policy to admit of Her Majesty's Government consenting to authorize your Lordship to enter into any such engagements on behalf of the British Crown. But your Lordship might possibly induce the Sicilians to take the chance of future events in a matter of this sort, relying upon that strength which they have recently displayed, and reflecting that when once a constitutional form of Government shall have been established for the whole of the Neapolitan dominions, it will become next to impossible for this King or for any of his successors to take away institutions so granted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 55.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 16, 1848

WITH reference to that portion of your Lordship's despatch of the 27th ultimo, in which you report what passed between yourself and Prince Scilla with respect to the communication which you had received from the chiefs of the Constitutional party at Palermo, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve of the course pursued by you on that occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 56.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 16, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 31st ultimo, stating your opinion with respect to the intention of the Neapolitan Government to establish a legislative union between the Kingdom of Naples and that of Sicily, I have to observe that it is quite intelligible that the Sicilians should object to be merged in an united Parliament constructed upon principles different from those which formed the essential foundation of the Constitution of 1812; but there does not appear to be any good reason why those principles should not form the foundation of a Parliament for the united kingdom, nor why, if in such a case the Sicilians had their fair share in the national representation, such an arrangement should not afford them all the security which they could reasonably desire.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 57.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 16, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd instant, inclosing the reply which you had returned to the note addressed to you by the Duke of Serra Capriola, requesting the mediation of Great Britain and France in arresting the civil war in Sicily, I have to inform your Lordship that your answer was right in as far as it expressed the readiness with which you, as the organ of the British Government, were prepared to take any proper step by which you might be useful in healing the differences now unfortunately subsisting between the King of Naples and his Sicilian subjects; but it is not the desire of the British Government that the Kingdom of Naples should be weakened by a separation between its insular and continental portions; no interest of England would be served thereby; and on the contrary such a separation might lead to events which could not fail to be productive of embarrassment to England. It is therefore the wish of Her Majesty's Government that the connection between Sicily and Naples should be maintained, and the closer and more intimate that connection could be made, the better pleased would Her Majesty's Government be, provided always that nothing was done which should be at variance with the inclinations of the Neapolitan and Sicilian people.

The best arrangement therefore which could be made, supposing it to be in all respects practicable, would be that there should be one Parlia-

ment for the whole kingdom, and that in that Parliament the Peers and the Representatives of Sicily and of the Neapolitan provinces should sit together in such relative proportions as might upon consideration be determined to be just and proper.

Her Majesty's Government do not know enough of the present state of things in Sicily and at Naples to be able to judge whether such an arrangement could or could not be effected; and they are aware that many obstacles on both sides of the channel might be opposed to it; but nevertheless Her Majesty's Government think that the advantages of such an arrangement would be so great, that every effort ought to be made to accomplish it.

No. 58.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

Sir,

Admiralty, February 15, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated the 28th ultimo, transmitting a despatch from Commander Key of the "Bulldog," detailing his proceedings at Palermo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Malta, January 28, 1848.

HAVING just learnt that a French steamer starts immediately for Marseilles, I have only time to inclose for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the copy of a despatch which I yesterday received from Commander Key of the "Bulldog," detailing his proceedings at Palermo.

I have been informed of the arrival of the "Gladiator" at Palermo, but the "Vengeance" on the 22nd instant was off Stromboli with adverse winds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Commander Key to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Bulldog," Palermo, January 18, 1848.

ALL communication by land with Messina being cut off and the steam-packet from Naples having ceased to run, I take advantage of the "Fair Rosamond" (Royal Yacht Squadron, Captain Lyon) to send this to Naples, from there to Malta.

As I have but a short time I can do no more than endeavour in a few words to give you an outline of my proceedings since my departure from the squadron on January the 10th, reserving the details for the next opportunity.

The "Bulldog" arrived at Palermo soon after noon on January 12th, the King's birthday. A few minutes after the ship was anchored, a boat pulled alongside with a Sicilian in a state of great excitement, who I learnt had that morning been the leader of a partial rise of the populace against the Government. He had been disappointed of the arrival of confederates from the country, and therefore had been overpowered and

barely escaped with his life into a boat. I received him on board. On proceeding on shore and communicating with Her Majesty's Consul, I learnt that this instruction had been published by printed bills as to take place on the 12th; being put down so soon he considered it over.

On the night of the 12th a large body of armed people came in from the country, and on the evening of the 13th made themselves masters of the police office, public conveyance office, the Porta Termine, and then proceeded to attack the bank; there they were repulsed. Then they barricaded the main streets, the troops firing cannon down the Toledo or principal street.

I then (the forenoon of the 13th) sent round to the British merchants and residents to meet me for a conference. I found considerable alarm prevailed amongst them, not against either party, but in case large bodies of armed people should come from the country, they being not under the controul of the leaders of the movement, and the town being in the hands of the populace, would probably resort to their too common custom of pillage. I then took the following measures for their safety.

I offered to take the valuables, money and jewels of any of them on board at once. I offered the "Bulldog" and the British merchant-vessels as an asylum, should any wish to embark with their families, establishing a signal at the Consulate for them in order that they might call our boats on shore when they wished to embark. I then looked for any position that might be easily defended by a small body of men, to serve as a rendezvous should the British residents be seized with a sudden panic; this I found might be done in the lot of houses inhabited by the Consul, the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe, and several British subjects. I therefore sent Lieutenant Swinburne with sixteen men for this purpose. This house is close to the sea, at the back is a terrace, the gate of which opened close to the landing-place; of this gate I secured the only key, intending it not only as a means of egress for the people embarking, but also as a sure passage to communicate with my own men. I established signals with Lieutenant Swinburne by night and day. On the 14th the Castellamare commenced to throw shells into the town. I immediately went to the Palace to remonstrate for not having given warning; they only promised to spare the English quarter.

During the night of the 14th and morning of the 15th the shelling continued at intervals, exasperating the inhabitants, killing the helpless, destroying the houses, and endangering the foreigners, without any other result. At noon on the 15th I again went to the Palace to represent this, and to demand a notice before the town was bombarded; the notice they gave me was that the bombardment "shall be discontinued, and shall not be again repeated until the people advance in masses to attack; then they will be the object for the attack, not the town." With this I was forced to be satisfied.

On my return through the town, a walk of a mile, I found the feeling of the people greatly changed towards me; instead of the enthusiasm and *vivas* with which I had been both times greeted on my way to the Palace. I saw discontent and disappointment; they stopped me and demanded what the English were going to do for them. I told their leaders that I had no authority to interfere with either party; there was then a general murmur of "the English have deceived us;" they allowed me however to return to the Consulate; the leaders came there and said that until now they had promised and had sufficient interest to protect the foreigners, but now they could promise no longer, and if the English quarter was spared, the people would take possession of the British residents and keep them as hostages while the town was being shelled.

At about 3 P.M. on the 15th the people having made a general attack on the Bank, the shelling recommenced; and as a proof that the alarm of the British at this time was not without foundation, a man was killed in Lord Mount Edgecumbe's house while I was there, and another shell passed through the room in which were two English ladies. Mr. Fane, a British merchant, had two shells fall and burst in his house, and I could quote several other cases of the same kind.

At 4 P.M. I called a meeting of the merchants. I found them all

agreed with me in the propriety of embarking. I instantly sent round to the American and English merchant-vessels to prepare to receive any one I sent to them and to send their boats at 6; this they did most readily.

I sent to all the British subjects (whose names I obtained from the Consul) to be at the landing-place between 6 and 9 P.M. Before 8, in spite of rain and wind, all the British subjects were embarked, excepting the Consul and one or two who wished to remain till the latest possible moment. At the same time a squadron of Neapolitan steamers arrived with 5000 troops. On the morning of the 16th I called on Prince Louis, the Commodore of the squadron, to ask his intentions. He trusted that there would be no occasion to bombard the town, but that when the troops had landed they intended to march straight to the relief of the Royal Palace, which was now cut off from all communication with any other part of the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. KEY.

No. 59.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

Sir,

Admiralty, February 15, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Captain Robb of the "Gladiator," addressed to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker and dated the 25th ultimo, relative to the state of affairs in Sicily.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Gladiator," Palermo, January 25, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that I arrived at Messina in Her Majesty's steam-ship under my command on the 19th January, and found Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" in the Mole and the reported firing at that place to be unfounded.

In compliance with orders from Captain Codrington I sailed at 3 o'clock on the following morning and arrived here on the same evening, where I found Her Majesty's steam-ship "Bulldog" and immediately communicated with Commander Key and the Consul here; I found all the British residents had taken refuge on board of the "Bulldog" and the merchant-vessels in the Mole; that the town had revolted on the 12th and was in possession of the insurgents, who were keeping up a constant firing during day and night, and that the troops of the Government were in possession of the Castellamare, the barracks near the Mole, the Finanze, and the Royal Palace, which last they were at that time attacking; every communication had been cut off from it and the troops had been defeated in an attempt to relieve it. There were ten Neapolitan steam-vessels in the bay, which had landed a reinforcement of 5000 men from Naples, but they have never been able to leave their barracks except by water, when a few have been conveyed to the castle. The principal streets, Toledo and Macqueda, are deserted; cannon are placed at the end of these charging the whole streets; all the shops are shut, business is at a stand-still except in some of the small bye-streets, but people who are not engaged in military operations are quiet and well-conducted.

The people had made several attacks on the Finanze but have been beaten back, and this caused the commandant of the castle to bombard the town on two successive days, when it was put an end to by a protest

from the foreign Consuls. Several partial successes, have been obtained by the insurgents, who have defeated and prevented a junction between the troops in the castle or barracks and those who are now defending the Royal Palace, but they have not taken any point of great force or of much importance. The country round has sent in several thousands of men on the side of the people, and it is said they amount to 12,000 or 15,000 armed men in all, whilst the troops (without including the 5000 sent from Naples) amount to 6000, who are now kept in the barracks, the castle, the Finanze, and Royal Palace. I send you an abstract of the proceedings of both parties as nearly as I have been able to obtain the information.

On the 12th instant a partial rise took place which was put down; but on the night of the 12th and of the morning of the 13th large bodies of armed men came in from the country, attacked and took the police stations and several public offices, but failed in their attack upon the bank; the streets were barricaded and cannon placed so as to command them, and a fire was kept up along the Strada Toledo and Macqueda. On the 13th, British residents became alarmed lest the immense bodies of armed men who were hourly arriving from the country might commit violence, and measures were taken for their embarkation in the "Bulldog" and merchant vessels lying in the Mole. On the 14th the castle began to shell the town, but on the remonstrance of Commander Key they promised to spare the English quarter. On the 15th the shelling was continued, but on the protest of the foreign Consuls being made at the Palace, the shelling was discontinued, and is not again to be repeated unless the people advance in masses to attack the Finanze.

This attack however took place on the afternoon of the 16th, and the shelling recommenced. Several shells had fallen in the houses of British residents, killing a Swiss servant in one of their houses, and they were induced to embark on board the "Bulldog" and merchant-vessels that night, where they now remain. A squadron of Neapolitan steam-vessels arrived on that day with about 5000 troops and were landed at the barracks with the intention of marching directly to the relief of the Palace, but they were driven back by the people. On the three following days constant firing was kept up day and night; several attacks had been made on the Palace by the people, but all failed; they had however cut off the supplies and the water-pipes, and every day adds to the number and confidence of the insurgents. On the night of the 22nd another attempt was made to take possession of the bank by the populace, but they failed; the castle fired both shot and shell upon them during the attack. On the same night, or morning of the 23rd, a party of soldiers sent with provisions for the relief of the castle, was attacked by the insurgents on the road to Olivuzza, and the provisions captured with several prisoners.

The infantry barrack of the Noviciate near the Palace was also attacked and taken, whilst the attacks on the Palace still continued to be made by the insurgents, and as all supplies are cut off it is supposed that it can hold out but a short time longer. From these partial successes and the apparent apathy of the troops, the insurgents are becoming bolder daily and their force increasing. Subscriptions are being made among the people to defray the expenses which amount to about 1000 ounces daily, and most of the Sicilian nobility have joined them. No case of cruelty or outrage has come to my knowledge except the death of some policemen who were shot in consequence of some skeletons said to have been found in one of the dungeons of the police station. I have received a letter from the General commanding the King's troops requesting my interference; but I replied that I could do in no way, but that I would be the means of communicating between the parties and consider this ship as a neutral ground on which they might meet to settle any terms that might put an end to the further effusion of Sicilian blood. A deputation also from the Committee of Public Safety came on board yesterday and said that "Should the Marshal wish to treat with the Committee in the present state of affairs, the first thing that he must do is to cause all the posts held by the military to be abandoned as the sole basis of any accommodation;" for the rest they refer him to their reply of the 22nd of January, which I inclose in the printed paper. I forward to

Lord Napier on account of all that is now passing here, and I send a copy of this to the Admiralty, as from the uncertain state of the communication here, I cannot feel certain at what time this may reach you.

The arrival yesterday of a merchant steam-vessel chartered by Lord Napier to send a messenger here with despatches will take this to Naples on her return to-day, when as soon as the "Vengeance" arrives I shall proceed in compliance with my orders. I inclose the gazettes of the insurgents and their proclamation. Everything is tranquil here to-day and the firing for the first time has nearly ceased; no blockade of Palermo has been yet proclaimed, nor has anything been done to establish a Sanità by the Committee of Public Safety yet. There are seven Neapolitan steam-vessels here, but with the exception of one shot fired during the attack on the Finance on the night of the 22nd instaut, they have done nothing.

Although a great deal of firing has taken place, I believe that the killed and wounded on the part of the people up to this day does not exceed 100, and the number of soldiers taken by them 600 or 700. An answer is expected daily from the King of Naples to the wishes of the Sicilians which had been forwarded to him by the Luogotenente, but the insurgents declare they will accept of no terms but the Constitution of 1812, of which they had been unjustly deprived. I have forwarded to Lords Napier and Minto a petition from the Committee praying for the mediation of Great Britain. I shall make you acquainted on any opportunity, with what is passing here until the "Vengeance" arrives.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JN. ROBB.

No. 60.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 17.)

(Extract.)

Naples, February 3, 1848.

HAVING received an intimation that His Sicilian Majesty desired to see me, I waited upon His Majesty at the Palace this afternoon.

The King received me in a very gracious manner, and informed me that he had heard from his Excellency M. Bozzelli of my willingness to employ the influence of Her Majesty's Legation in promoting the restoration of tranquillity in Sicily.

I replied to His Majesty that in consequence of the information conveyed to me by M. Bozzelli that a separate Representative Government would be bestowed on that part of His Majesty's dominions, I hoped that I might have the power of exerting some influence with the insurrectionary party, and if I had previously manifested an apparent difficulty or reluctance in not unconditionally affording my assistance for such a salutary object, it was solely owing to my persuasion that I had no sound basis of action; but now on the contrary the principal object at issue being conceded, namely, a separate legislature, I was enabled to operate with a great security of success, and that from that moment all my efforts were at His Majesty's disposal.

His Majesty having expressed a desire that I should proceed in person to Palermo I stated my readiness to do so directly, and the King added that in such a conjuncture of affairs the presence of the Earl of Minto at this capital would be very desirable, and that he would cause an invitation to be transmitted to his Lordship, without delay through the Neapolitan Minister at Rome. I then submitted to the King that I had already urgently pressed the Earl of Minto to repair without delay to Naples, and that the messenger in case he should meet him on the road had better be charged with some communication to be delivered to him in person. His Majesty agreed, and requested me to convey in a letter to the Earl of Minto the expression of his wishes, which would be consigned to the care of the Neapolitan courier to be used in the contingency mentioned above.

I then took leave of His Majesty the King and retired to the Council

Room with the Duke of Serra Capriola and M. Bozzelli, who were present during the audience. I found several of the Ministers assembled, and a discussion ensued.

I pointed out to the Council that with the future organization of the Government I had little to do, that my duty was to assist in framing an armistice, and that for that purpose I must have Commissioners or Plenipotentiaries empowered to act in connection with me and to meet the delegates in like number of the Provisional Government. I recommended two on each side if one were not thought enough, for amongst such an excitable people I dreaded the fruitless conflict of debate between large parties of negotiators. It was agreed; and I suggested as one of the Commissioners Prince Cariati, with whom I have the honour to enjoy a private friendship, and whose former experience of military affairs would enable him to indicate the course and the expedients fitting to such an emergency. This suggestion seemed to meet with general approval, and Prince Cariati has been requested to join the Commission.

We proceeded to discuss the terms on which it would be convenient and becoming for the Representatives of the King to accept an armistice; but here I discovered that the Council desired me to commit myself to articles, which considering the problematical nature of the duty undertaken were quite misplaced and impracticable. In vain I protested the necessity of allowing me to act for the best according to circumstances, assuring them that the honour of the Crown would be respected in my hands; they seemed bent on dictating instructions to me and binding up my powers of judgment and action to such a degree that I was forced to say I saw only one practicable issue, viz., that—

1st. Two Plenipotentiaries should be appointed on either side for the discussion of the terms of an armistice, and that I should be present merely as a kind of amicable arbiter to facilitate their conference and conclusions without any positive powers; and

2nd. That on the armistice being completed, I should give the guarantee of Her Majesty's Government for its execution by either party.

My propositions appeared to be received with satisfaction, and we separated.

I am under the impression that the course to be pursued will in reality be regulated by the state of affairs at Palermo when we arrive at that city, of which we are very ignorant, and that it may be expedient to proceed at first in any manner with the view of availing ourselves of such opportunities of usefulness as may fortuitously occur, having once got a good basis in the offer of a separate Constitution to Sicily, which was the great aim of the nation.

No. 61.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 17.)

(Extract.)

Naples, February 4, 1848.

I LEFT the Neapolitan Council yesterday evening, as stated to your Lordship in my despatch of the 3rd instant, under the impression that it would be my duty to proceed to Palermo this morning in company with Neapolitan Commissioners empowered to treat for an armistice.

I find that the resolution of the Neapolitan Cabinet is changed or suspended, and that the Duke of Serra Capriola, pleading the refusal of one of the gentlemen appointed in the capacity above mentioned, has altered his tone entirely, in which he coincides with Prince Torella, who talks now of the impropriety of treating with rebels.

In the meantime, however, the Earl of Minto reached Naples this afternoon, and will greatly contribute by his authority to the adoption of a more rational course.

No. 62.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 17.)

(Extract.)

Nap'les, February 4, 1848.

IT may be expedient for me to state to your Lordship that in offering the guarantee of Her Majesty's Government to the Articles of the proposed Armistice, I took good care to mark most explicitly that such a guarantee would apply solely to the conditions of a suspension of hostilities, and have no reference whatever to the subsequent settlement of the general political question with regard to the system of Representative Government to be enjoyed by Sicily, with respect to which I could not of course assume the responsibility of offering any guarantee whatever; and I have spoken to the members of the Sicilian party here in the same sense.

No. 63.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 17.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 7, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a report addressed by Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, containing details of the bombardment of Messina from the castle, forts and a steam-vessel of war on the 29th ultimo, the day on which a Representative Constitution was proclaimed at Naples.

I have also the honour to inclose a despatch under date of January 31st, from Her Majesty's Consul, transmitting a disavowal on the part of General Cardamone, of the unauthorized measures as he asserts embraced by his subordinate officers. It appears however that General Cardamone might easily have arrested the fire, by sending orders to that effect, which he omitted to do.

I have this morning received private letters from Captain Codrington informing me that the fire from the citadel has been renewed on several occasions since the beginning of the month, and that he was engaged in concert with the Commander of the French steam-vessel of war "Vauban" in endeavouring to avert an impending conflict, which would probably attend the introduction of provisions into Fort Real Basso by the Royal Forces.

The bombardment of Messina has had the effect of thwarting a favourite design of the Neapolitan Government, namely to gain over that city by transferring to it the dignity and privileges attached to Palermo, and thus to create disunion in the Sicilian ranks. By the late barbarous and coercive acts the Messinese have been stimulated to join their allies at the capital so heartily that a perfect sympathy reigns between them, and the superior authority of the Provisional Government at Palermo seems to be freely recognized by the whole island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Captain Codrington to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Thetis," Messina, January 30, 1848.

I REGRET to have to inform you that a revolt broke out in this place yesterday forenoon, and that in the afternoon the town was bombarded with shot and shell from all the forts and from the Neapolitan steamer "Carlo III" for an hour and a half, the firing only ceasing after dark.

Two days previously I had written to the General protesting strongly against such a line of conduct, and had not only received his personal assurances that he would not bombard the town, but he had in his written answer pledged his word of honour that he would only repel force by force, that he would not bombard the town, and that previous to firing he would give foreigners very sufficient warning. Captain Engle, of the United States' ship "Princeton," and myself both received these assurances on his part. I inclose copies of these documents, by which you will see that nothing could have been more satisfactory in appearance.

After some communication on the previous day between the two sides the insurrection broke out yesterday shortly before noon, by a descent into the town of insurgent bands of men from the country armed with pikes, daggers, and fowling-pieces. The first firing, commenced it is said by mutual mistake, took place at the fort called, I think, "Real Basso," a small outlying fort standing on the beach at the extreme north end of the town and with houses close to it. A few lives were lost on each side, but the irregular musketry of the insurgents had evidently no chance of making an impression on this the weakest part of the military position, though much too strong for the efforts of the assailants. A pause of some duration ensued, during which negotiations were going on between the General on one side and the heads of the people on the other, both I think desirous of avoiding extreme measures. The result was the unopposed and peaceable withdrawal of the troops from all the isolated parts of the town into the arsenal and outworks of the Terra Nova, which form a sort of advanced post of the ground in front of the citadel.

All remained quite quiet until about 3 or 4 o'clock P.M., when a firing commenced outside the advanced position of the troops, the commencement of which both parties attributed to each other and to bad faith. I must remark that the point of action at this time was only at the extreme southern end of the town, and removed from the Marina. Immediately on the commencement of this struggle the citadel and Fort Salvador opened from across the water a continued fire of shot and shell right at the houses on the Marina, and into the town generally, while the fort (called "Real Basso") at the extreme north end of the Marina fired raking discharges of grape down it. Being myself at that moment on shore in the Consul's house, I made my way to a front house on the Marina, and looking out for a time, I can depose to the fact, on my own testimony as well as that of the officers on this ship's deck and of the gig's crew (then at the Marina and in imminent peril), that this firing was begun by the citadel without the least provocation from the side of the Marina; and that neither at the time nor afterwards were there means of offence whatever from the town against those fortifications. Subsequently the steam frigate "Carlo III" moored off the arsenal, opened a fire of shells from her two heavy guns; the whole of this heavy fire being directed not to the part of the town or the houses nearest to the point of attack, but to the town generally and the Marina in particular. That you may understand the futility of such a proceeding in intimidating the insurgents or in reaching them at all, I must explain that the Marina is a terrace about 1800 yards long skirting the harbour, composed of large double blocks of houses of great height, back to back, very solidly built, with many interior walls, the whole of stone. They stand up higher than any buildings behind them, and form a perfect screen for the rest of the town; and even were the front houses destroyed, the ruins would have the same covering effect. The distance of these houses in a direct line from the citadel is 860 yards, and from Fort Salvador only 600. The extreme terror and misery of the inhabitants residing on or near the Marina (most of them foreign residents, principally British) thus driven to take refuge in their vaulted cellars may easily be imagined. I should also mention that every house of a resident foreigner might be easily distinguished by the national colours hung out on each side. For an hour and a half this heavy fire was kept up on quiet inoffensive parts of the town, which had no means or intention of replying to it; and it was only discontinued after dark. It is difficult to ascertain the precise objects they fired at or what could have been the intention of the bombardment; but were it not that I conclude it to have proceeded from the nervous

excitement of the moment, in men unconscious of the destructive effects of the weapons they used, I should not hesitate to pronounce it a most savage and wanton act, as barbarous as it was useless.

The damage to vessels afloat is happily very trifling, but on shore both shot and shell have gone into the houses of foreign residents, including several English houses, to the great damage of their property and the imminent risk of their lives.

After visiting them to ascertain the facts myself, I proceeded with Captain Engle, of the United States' ship "Princeton," to the arsenal, where we had an interview with the General commanding (Cardamone). In answer to the strong remonstrance and protest made by us the General made a sort of palliative explanation, which seemed to us very insufficient. He did not disavow the firing of the citadel nor did he say he had endeavoured to stop it; and he asserted that the town had fired shells on the citadel before it opened on the town. This I contradicted at the time, and this morning I had the satisfaction of proving to the Governor by the evidence of the second in command of the citadel, that the town did not fire on the citadel at all. During the night I had the whole of the merchant-ships moved across the harbour to a place of safety.

This morning the Consular Body, with Captain Engle of the United States' ship "Princeton," and myself, waited on the General, and the result of a very long and animated discussion is, that the General, who had last night received fresh orders by steamer from Naples, totally disavowed the firing from the citadel, saying that he had sent three messengers to stop it, in vain. He added that he had placed General Busaco under arrest, and he was being sent off by steamer for Naples for trial by court-martial immediately. I cannot say I am quite satisfied with all this, since as the citadel is not five minutes' walk from the General's quarters the whole bombardment might have been stopped in ten minutes instead of lasting an hour and a half.

Moreover the steam-frigate that began some time after the citadel was moored close to the General's quarters, and if she did not begin by his orders she might easily have been stopped there by his own voice.

Finally the General has in our presence given his orders to the citadel that it is not to fire shells in any case, and that it is to fire shot at those points only from whence an attack is being made on the King's forces.

It is much to be regretted that his Excellency did not give these orders at an earlier period as he was requested to do by me; since, besides preventing the recent losses of life and property, they would have given no occasion for that exasperation of the population which a contrary policy has excited here as well as at Palermo.

During this day things have remained perfectly quiet.

The "Gladiator" has just arrived, and the news she brings from Naples may probably conduce to their continuing so, until the people hear more in detail the offers to be made to them by the King's Government.

I do not think the King's military possession of these fortifications can be endangered by the means at present in the possession of the insurgents; and as on the other hand the troops have not a chance of recovering any part of the town, I trust that both parties will remain at rest until the affairs of the whole country are settled by negotiation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. J. CODRINGTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Consul Barker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Messina, January 31, 1848.

ON the 29th instant the revolution had effect here. In the afternoon the troops left their quarters but were driven back by the insurgents. About fifty soldiers were killed and two pieces of artillery taken from them. The loss on the part of the rebels was two killed.

At 4½ p. m. the citadel, forts, and the steam-frigate bombarded the town in every direction; British property sustained considerable damage.

On the 30th the Consuls waited on the General demanding an explanation of the bombardment. The inclosed is a copy of a declaration made by him to the Consular Body.

The execution of the laws is in the hands of the people.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. W. BARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 63.

The French Vice-Consul to Consul Barker.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul,

Messina, January 30, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit you copy of the despatch which has been addressed to me by the General in command of the town a few moments after our meeting at his house.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) COMTE DE MARICOURT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 63.

The Commandant of Messina to the French Vice-Consul.

(Translation.)

Messina, January 30, 1848.

THE Undersigned, General commanding the province and city of Messina, has the honour to acquaint the Court de Maricourt, Vice-Consul of His Majesty the King of the French at Messina, that the citadel having fired from the batteries on the town contrary to his orders, he has entirely disavowed the conduct of the General commanding the said citadel, who not only violated the orders not to fire but commenced firing on his own responsibility; and as the crime of the General is contrary to discipline and to the particular convention by which the Undersigned agreed not to make use of cannons and mortars from the citadel but in case of siege, which was to be announced previously by a proclamation, which accords the necessary delay for the safety of families and their property, the Undersigned declares again that he sends to Naples General Busaco, ex-Commandant of the citadel, subjecting him to a council of war to judge of his conduct; and at the same time the Undersigned promises, as he had already done, that henceforth no firing shall take place against the city with the artillery of the citadel, but in case of a formal declaration of siege, the proclamation of which shall be communicated to the Consular Corps.

The Undersigned requests the Count will have the goodness to communicate the contents of this note to the different Consuls, and to cause them to accept the assurances of his high consideration.

(Signed) DOMCO. CARDAMONE,
General Commanding the Province and City.

P.S.—It is to be understood that the citadel will not fire with mortars, but that it shall have the power to defend itself against approaches or batteries that may be directed against it and the retrinchments of Terra Nova, with the guns directed against the point of attack.

No. 64.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 17.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 7, 1848.

I HAVE again to thank Mr. Lyon, proprietor of the yacht "Fair Rosamond," for some interesting details of the progress of events at Palermo, and I submit to your Lordship copy of his letter herewith, by which your Lordship will be informed of various circumstances of a deplorable and tragical character attending the retreat of the Royal forces from the vicinity of the port of Palermo and their embarkation at Solanto, nine miles from the city. Subsequent intelligence induces me to believe that the cruelties practised by the Neapolitan troops on their march are rather underrated than exaggerated by Mr. Lyon.

With respect to the traces of butchery and torture alleged to have been discovered in a police office referred to in Mr. Lyon's letter and of which much has been spoken, it will be my particular care to collect and sift the best evidence on the subject that I may be enabled to procure; but I can state to your Lordship that these particulars are in the opinion of Captain Key of Her Majesty's steamer "Bulldog," by no means devoid of truth.

The troops embarked at Solanto and reached Naples in a miserable state of famine and destitution.

By the inclosed despatches from Her Majesty's Consul your Lordship is placed in possession of the events which attended the revolt of Catania and Girgenti, and of occurrences at Palermo up to the morning of the 4th instant, to which I have only to add that on the evening of the 4th the castle of Palermo, Castellamare, surrendered by Royal order to the insurgents, after being battered and again firing with shot and shells on the city, and the garrison was embarked unmolested owing to the humane interposition of Captain Lushington of Her Majesty's ship "Vengeance," and Captain Key of Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Bulldog," who walked through the principal street with Colonel Gross the Commandant, thus displaying the moderation of the people and the respect and confidence manifested towards the officers of Her Majesty's vessels of war.

There are consequently no remains at Palermo of the original garrison nor of the reinforcements dispatched under the command of the Count of Aquila, amounting in all to above 10,000 men.

The "Bulldog" arrived at Naples on the evening of the 5th and remains at the disposal of the Earl of Minto.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 64.

Mr. Lyon to Lord Napier.

*"Fair Rosamond," at sea, off Ustica,
January 31, 1848.*

My dear Lord Napier,

ACCORDING to your desire I send you all the *affiches* that I could collect published since my return to Palermo, which place I left yesterday for Solanto, where the steam squadron of the King of Naples is collected. You will have been put *au fait* of the proceedings at Palermo up to the evening of the 26th instant by Captain Robb who sailed on that evening for Naples, and who would have informed you of the fall of the Palace early on that morning and the surrender of the Finanze at about 4 p.m. of the same day to the people.

The furniture of the Palace alone suffered at its capture; all the pictures, objects of art, and the beautiful chapel it contains were respected and guarded by the chiefs of the popular army. Being present I can answer for the truth of this, and likewise, when the troops (700 in number)

gave up the *Finanze*, they were most kindly treated on giving up their arms. All the police in uniform were equally well treated, those called "*sbirri*," I believe 40 in number, were also in most cases safely put in prison, though some few (four or five) were murdered. On the morning of the 27th General Desaget held only the barracks near the Mole and the fortress called the *Castellamare* under Colonel Gross, and he proposed through Captain Lushington's mediation, to give up both these posts on condition that he was allowed to embark his men without molestation and to dismantle the fortress. This message being sent to the Senate, they replied that their ultimatum was that he should first give up all political prisoners; secondly, surrender the prison and galley-slaves to the guards of the popular army; and thirdly, give up the fortress in its present state.

The General's answer to this was that he would concede the two first points but not the third relative to the fort. Captain Lushington in vain tried to bring the hostile parties to terms, but could only obtain that the King should be sent to request him to concede the fort without destroying it; this message was equally unsuccessful as the former one had been to the Senate, and consequently the General commenced embarking his sick and wounded under the protection of the fort and two gun-boats (but strange to say the steamers kept without range of the fire), whilst the people made a vigorous and general attack on the troops at all points and with success. By 5 o'clock the people were in possession of the houses near the point of embarkation and had their guns, 24-pounders, so near the shore as to drive the gun-boats to take shelter by retiring beyond the steamers. Still there was nothing to prevent the General from completing the embarkation of his troops, and he boasted to Captain Lushington as late as sunset on the 27th, that he could embark any amount of property and troops from the fact of commanding the bay both by the steamers and from the fort. On the morning of the 28th, to the surprise of everybody, it was discovered that the General had collected all his troops excepting those in the fortress, and retired by a detour near Mount *Pelegrino* and was marching completely round the town as if he were going into the country. He likewise liberated the galley-slaves and other felons by firing at the prison gate and killing several of them. I cannot however answer for this as I did not see it, but I can answer for his letting loose all the galley-slaves upon the town of Palermo. The people hung upon the flanks of the King's army all the 28th instant, much exasperated by the outrages committed by the troops on their march round the town; the King's army gained the road to Solanto on the night of the 28th, which is in an easterly direction from Palermo.

On the 29th the peasants from the villages in that direction flocked in great numbers into Palermo, calling on the Senate to avenge their children and women who had been murdered by the retreating army of the King. I borrowed a horse about mid-day and rode out to ascertain the true position and strength of the parties. I met on my way numerous peasants all telling the same sad story, the women in many instances covered with blood and declaring that the blood was that of their children who had been murdered. As I followed a road running parallel to the two parties I did not see anything except the farms and villages burning on the line of retreat, and a few murdered men.

At about nine miles from Palermo, at a town called *Bagaria*, the parallel roads nearly touch, and here I found the head of the retreating army of the King passing at about a mile distant from the town, but which it did not venture to enter. The retreat was conducted in an orderly manner; the rear guard, which was being attacked by the people, was hidden from my view, but I should conceive that the King's troops were not less than 5000 in number, but they might be stronger as the nature of the ground and their mode of retreat did not enable me to arrive at any good calculation.

On the evening of the 29th the King's army reached Solanto, a small place about two miles eastward of *Bagaria*, where ten steamers and six merchant-brigs were waiting for them.

On the 30th I got under weigh and went round to Solanto and found

the troops embarking. Skirmishing was kept up all day with the people's advance guard, which towards evening got near enough for the steamers to open their fire upon them. By nightfall a great many troops had embarked, but I doubt if the shipping was sufficient to embark the horses of the cavalry, of which there seemed to be a regiment.

I regret I could not spare time to have a copy made for you of the correspondence between the Senate, the Duc de Majo, and Colonel Gross, relative to the bombardment of the town. I read it however in the original. The first letter was from the Senate to the Duc de Majo, complaining of the indiscriminate throwing of shells and wantonly killing women and children who had had no notice to remove out of danger. The Duke replies that the whole blame lies with Colonel Gross, who had acted on his own responsibility in throwing shells from the fort without his (the Duke's) order, and that Colonel Gross will have to answer for his conduct. The Senate inform Colaoel Gross of this letter of the Duc de Majo's, and accuse him of cruelty and barbarity in thus shelling the town indiscriminately without or against the Duke's orders. Colonel Gross replies that as the Duc de Majo by his letter has implicated his honour, he must in self-defence send to the Senate the copy of the written order of the Duke for the bombardment of the town. Colonel Gross then sends an authenticated copy, signed by witnesses, of the Duke's order desiring the Colonel to throw shells every five minutes into the town, though if practicable he may spare the Butera quarter (which is the English Consul's residence) and the Porta Macqueda (the French Consul's residence). It is this conduct on the part of the Duc de Majo which causes the Senate to refuse any terms with him. Colonel Gross is respected, and faith would be put in his promise. Since Colonel Gross has been left in command he has not thrown shells or shot without provocation; and he promised Captain Lushington that he would throw no more shells; but he was obliged by a council of war to retract that promise, as the engineer officers find that there are some houses too near the fort and under which the people will get their guns in position against the fort. The fort, if taken, will be taken I should say by escalade, as it would require some days and some knowledge of gunnery to breach it.

Colonel Gross makes no hesitation of speaking his opinion of the Duc de Majo and General Desaget.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) W. LYON.

P.S.—I visited the Police Office of which so much has been said relative to torture having been committed there constantly. I send you the procès-verbal which was taken by those who first entered it. I found the secret door as described, also the small inner apartment containing the niches or shelves in which the skeletons were found, and the place as described. The bones and parts of human bodies had been removed, as many days had elapsed since the office had been taken.

Inclosure 2 in No. 64.

Procès-verbal of Giuseppe Oddo.

Palermo, 20 Gennaro, 1848.

IL venti di questo Gennaro, passando dal Largo del Santo Domenico fui arrestato d'una quantità di popoli che s'affermata innanzi il commissariato onde pria era stato Silvestri ed oggi Arini, e con mio vivo orrore ho trovato quanto segue: ossa fresche, sangue vivo, carne e membri umani dispersi per una camera segreta, e più tunicchie o scaffali, un ascellatoio ed un trabocchetto, caratteristiche tutti di un umano necisora. Tosto sospiato dal popolo, che a tutta voce gridava "vendetta! vendetta!" ne ho fatto rapporto, quale autentico della infama canaglia, che invece di pubblica giustizia, sono li serviti per empîi sicari.

(Firmato)

GIUSEPPE ODDO.

(Translation.)

Palermo, January 20, 1848.

ON the 20th instant, passing by the Largo Santo Domenico I was stopped by a number of people who stood before the police office at the head of which there was once Silvestri and now there is Arini. To my great horror I found what follows: Fresh bones, living blood, flesh and human limbs spread about a secret chamber, and several instruments of torture and a trap-door were there, that indicated a human slaughter-house. Pushed on by the people crying loudly "Vengeance! vengeance!" I made a report of it as an authentic proof of the infamy of those who instead of public justice were impious murderers.

(Signed) G. ODDO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 64.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, January 30, 1848.

RESUMING my narrative of military operations brought down to 28th January, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that a body of Neapolitan horse and foot whose retreat had been cut off at Olivuzza, where a bloody conflict took place between the troops and the villagers, proceeded to Bocca di Falco and fell on the defenceless peasants, putting men, women, and children to promiscuous slaughter. Repulsed by the Monrealese who came down *en masse* to rescue their neighbours, the soldiers fled through the royal garden, crossed the Oreto, advanced to La Grazia, plundered that village, and proceeded to Abate (on the road to Catania) where they proposed taking up their quarters. Defeated by the peasants they struck off to Bagaria, but finding the country up in arms they encamped in the neighbourhood where they still remain. A detachment which attempted yesterday to force its way to Solanto was cut to pieces by the peasants.

As soon as the troops embarked at the Mole the galley-slaves at the Arsenal, whose chains had been knocked off, forced the gates and broke loose. Once free themselves they rushed in a body to the New Vicaria and set the prisoners at liberty. No inconvenience has yet been sustained, but fears are entertained for the future. The new National Guard it is hoped will preserve peace and order in the city and environs.

The Revolution at Girgenti took place on Saturday the 22nd in the most peaceable and orderly manner. Colonel Bianchini placed himself at the head of the people, and has since been named Commandant of the place. In the course of an hour every one had mounted the national cockade, and 400 or 500 men were in arms. They are now organizing a National Guard; about 800 took the oath this morning (26th) to live or die for the Constitution, and those who receive pay have engaged to go to the assistance of Palermo if requested. The authorities are all deposed. About 100 soldiers and gendarmes are at the castle guarding the prisoners. All the province appears to be in movement. Canicatta has sent deputies to form an alliance with Girgenti, and has offered an armed force either to assist Girgenti or Palermo in case of need.

We have had a dreadful tragedy at the Mole. On Sunday night about ninety convicts escaped from the castle; a few were retaken by the Civica, and two or three killed. Those who did not escape, 156 in number, were put into the fosse for security. On opening the fosse on the 26th 130 were found dead, and 26 only living. The first report was that they had got rid of their chains and made them instruments of mutual destruction; it is now said that the convicts were killed by the Royal troops who were left to guard them; that grenades were thrown into the fosse last night; and that the bodies were brought out all blackened with

gunpowder. At present, 26th instant, a force of 1200 National Guards is organized in the city and at the Mole of Girgenti. So writes Vice-Consul Oates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 64.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, January 31, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 27th instant, acknowledging the receipt of my despatches, and conveying to me your Lordship's approbation of their tenor and details, and also directing me to acquaint the Prætor of this city that your Lordship has received his letter applying for British mediation.

It gives me great pleasure to find that my humble exertions have met with your Lordship's approval.

Instructed to convey your Lordship's gracious message to the Prætor in a confidential manner, I sought and obtained a private audience of his Excellency, read to him a literal translation of your Lordship's commands, and allowed him to peruse it repeatedly. His Excellency appeared to be perfectly satisfied with the message, and desired me to return you his warmest acknowledgments for your Lordship's anxiety to promote the restoration of public tranquillity.

Having been summoned on my way to the Senate House to attend a Consular meeting convened by M. Bresson, I went to the French Consulate and found most of my colleagues assembled to make a collective demand for the establishment of neutrality in the port of Palermo. As soon as we were joined by Captain Lushington, Commander Key, and Lieutenant de Vaisseau Delacour, the draft of a note was read by M. Bresson, and after much discussion and some slight alterations was adopted unanimously. The object was to prevent the fort at the Mole held by the insurgents from firing at the castle held by the King's troops, and *vice versa*. We then adjourned to the Senate House, where we found the Committee broken up for the day; after some delay the President, D. Ruggiero Settimo, made his appearance, and without waiting for his colleagues proceeded to business. The discussion was conducted chiefly by M. Bresson and M. Delacour; the result was, that the President signified his intention to lay the matter before his colleagues and return an answer to-morrow.

The intended attack on the castle having been mentioned, and M. Bresson having begged the President to give sufficient notice to foreigners to get away, as many have returned on shore, the President consented to postpone the intended attack until Wednesday morning next, but besought us to employ the interval with all diligence in removing our persons and property.

Thereupon we took leave and passed through the ante-rooms amidst deafening shouts, among which that of "Viva l'Inghilterra!" was the loudest and most general.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

P.S.—To-day the castle has been firing upon the Sanità in order to demolish it and the insurgent batteries with little effect.

The inclosed* from the Commandant of the castle has been notified to all British subjects on shore and all foreign Consuls.

* See Inclosure 4 in No. 62.

Inclosure 5 in No. 64.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, February 1, 1848.

VICE-CONSUL JEANS writes thus from Catania, under date of the 29th January:

"The whole of Catania with the exception of the castle, which is held by Brigadier General Rossi with about 500 men, is in the possession of the insurgents. On the morning of the 26th the Collegio Cutelli held by the troops as an outpost to the prison was attacked, and after a desperate resistance carried by the people, who showed the utmost kindness to the soldiers, wounded and prisoners. On the following morning the prison was attacked and after a short resistance taken; the prisoners were equally well treated. Yesterday morning the Gendarmeria was taken. On the evening of the 27th, it having been reported that General Rossi intended to follow the example of the General at Palermo and bombard the town, the Vice-Consular Body held a meeting at my house, and drew up a protest which was sent into the castle on the following morning through one of the soldiers who had been made prisoner; our protest was not without good effect, for the Neapolitan steam-frigate "Carlo Terzo" having made her appearance on that morning and having been fired upon by the insurgents, the castle began to fire on the city for about two hours, and only ceased on the receipt of our protest. Yesterday and to-day, 29th, the city has been quiet, the different committees are organizing themselves and probably making arrangements for an attack on the castle. I must bear testimony to the fact that the first attack was of the troops on the populace; that the wounded and prisoners have in every instance been treated with the greatest kindness and humanity; and that the endeavours of the different Provisional Committees have been successful in preventing any outrage or disorder on the part of the populace."

The Vice-Consul adds in a private letter:

"The disturbance began thus. On the arrival of the mail from Palermo about 7 o'clock on the evening of Tuesday 25th, the populace began shouting in the Piano del Duomo, where the Post Office is situated. The troops stationed at the Collegio Cutelli began firing up and down the Corso, without any warning, killing or wounding all who were passing at the time, among the latter was D. Puddo Abate, the well-known guide and much esteemed landlord of the 'Corona,' who crossing over to his hotel from the house of his daughter, who lived directly opposite, just at the moment the troops began firing, was one of the first victims. The loss on the part of the populace is very small. The enthusiasm is excessive; it quite surprised me during the attack on the Collegio, to see boys of nine or ten years' old dragging the cannon wherewith they attacked the Collegio, and throwing large stones at every window where a soldier appeared. All the people high or low have been well behaved up to now.

"As I walk through the streets at least every second person salutes me, or rather my country through me. It is quite gratifying in such a moment to be an Englishman, to see the estimation in which our country is held. I have several offers of country-houses in the neighbourhood, in case of an attack by sea or land, but I have of course answered I shall not abandon my post."

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 6 in No. 64.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, February 4, 1848.

AN interesting correspondence has taken place between Captain Lushington and Colonel Gross relative to the prisoners of State. Captain Lushington asked Colonel Gross to intrust the prisoners to his care during the intended bombardment, as they were confined in a place that was not bomb-proof. He undertook not to let them land in Sicily without Colonel Gross's permission or that of the King of Naples, and to take their parole that they would return to prison at the end of the bombardment. He desired Colonel Gross to think of the families not only of these State prisoners committed to his custody, but also of the families of the Neapolitan prisoners of war in the power of the Sicilians, and observed that as these prisoners of State had never borne arms against the Neapolitan Government, it was cruel to expose them to the horrors of a bombardment. Colonel Gross in reply regretted that he could not grant the request, because the sole condition on which the release could be effected had not been accepted by the committee to whom it had been communicated. This condition was that all the State prisoners should be exchanged against all the prisoners of war: the number of the former in the hands of Colonel Gross is 11; that of the latter in the hands of the Committee is above 1500.

2nd February. The Committee having declined complying with the request of the Consuls for declaring the Mole neutral ground, and an attack on the castle being daily expected, the British merchant-ships put to sea by desire of Captain Lushington who had previously victualled them for Malta; and the few British residents who remained on shore having been officially informed that even Consular houses would not be spared, went out of reach of danger from the fire of the castle. The day passed over with nothing remarkable beyond another and a fruitless attempt to demolish the Sanità.

3rd February. The Royal Decree of the 29th January announcing that the King had ordered the plan of a Constitution for both Sicilies to be framed by his Minister in ten days, and had directed a Parliament for both realms to be held in the capital of the kingdom, had no sooner been read in the Committee than it was decidedly rejected, and the unanimous rejection being proclaimed in the streets was received with shouts of applause. Captain Lushington, who as well as Commander Key and myself were present on this occasion, was requested by the Committee to renew his negotiation with Colonel Gross for the release of the prisoners of State, and was authorized to offer twenty-two Neapolitan officers to be chosen by Colonel Gross himself from the list of prisoners of war in exchange for the eleven prisoners of State now confined in the castle. This honourable task was readily undertaken by the gallant officer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 65.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 17.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 7, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of a communication addressed to me by M. Ruggiero Settimo, President of the General Committee of Palermo, inclosing a printed copy of the reply published by that body to the Royal Decree of the 29th ultimo which bestowed a Representative Constitution on Naples and Sicily united in a single comprehensive Parliament, and the Committee implore a second time the mediation of Great Britain.

A similar communication is in the hands of the Earl of Minto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

*The President of the General Committee at Palermo to Lord Napier.**Palermo, 3 Febbrajo, 1848.*

DOPO quello che il Comitato Generale di Pubblica Sicurezza e Difesa in Palermo ha avuto l'onore di far conoscere ai Rappresentanti del Governo Britannico, sul cominciamento e i progressi della rivoluzione di Palermo, e sui voti espressi costantemente ed unanimamente dal popolo per tornare alle sue antiche istituzioni; è necessario manifestare adesso che tutte le città di Sicilia han mostrato la medesima conformità di pensiero e di scopo; che fatti d'armi importanti sono avvenuti nelle città dove esistevano forze militari; che dappertutto il popolo è rimasto vittorioso come in Trapani, Catania, Termini; e che oramai non vi è alcun punto dell' isola che non abbia palesato il voto di seguire in tutto lo scopo del popolo di Palermo, quello cioè, di non deporre le armi se prima il Parlamento generale adunato in Palermo non abbia adattato ai tempi la Costituzione Siciliana del 1812, riconosciuta da tutte le Potenze ed implicitamente confermata dai Decreti del 1816 dopo gli atti del Congresso di Vienna. La stessa città di Messina, che pel passato è stata animata da gelosie municipali, sfida in questo momento le forze regie concentrate nella cittadella, ha costituito il Comitato Rivoluzionario per concorrere col resto dell' isola alla riuscita della causa comune, e si prepara ad attaccare con artiglierie ed armi che già sono in potere del popolo, quelle minacciose fortificazioni. Caltanissetta che al 1820 separavasi dalla causa nazionale, ha scritto ora in sensi ch'emendano l'antico fallo. In somma, la volontà della Sicilia intera è unica, immensa, inalterabile.

In questo stato di cose certo essendo il trionfo della rivoluzione Siciliana, il Comitato Generale di Palermo ha determinato di assumere l'esercizio di un Governo Provvisorio per tutta l'isola, all'oggetto di conservare lo Stato, ristabilire l'ordine, provvedere alla pubblica difesa, e convocare sollecitamente il Parlamento generale in Palermo, nelle cui mani rimetterà la sua autorità. Arriva oggi frattanto un decreto del 29 Gennajo scorso, col quale il Rè promette ai suoi sudditi del Regno delle Due Sicilie una costituzione della quale si annunziano le basi ch'è inutile ripetere, essendo certamente note a quest' ora a coloro cui la presente si dirige.

La prima idea che presenta un tal decreto e che basterebbe essa sola a farlo rigettare dalla Sicilia, è quella che debban continuare a formare unico regno la Sicilia ed il Reame di Napoli, e che unica debba essere la rappresentanza nazionale. In conseguenza la Sicilia non solo non otterrebbe alcun vantaggio, ma dovendo esser naturalmente i suoi rappresentanti in una proporzionale minorità, essa caderebbe in uno stato peggiore del passato, perchè avrebbe allora l'apparenza della legalità.

I Siciliani sono lieti che il sangue da loro versato, e che versano tuttavia, abbia fruttato ai loro fratelli di Napoli lo acquisto di una costituzione, ma i Siciliani sono in una posizione affatto diversa dai Napolitani; Qui in Sicilia la costituzione è pianta antichissima, ed in dritto non ha mai cessato di esistere. Le Parie ed il censo elettorale trovansi dalla medesima costituzione stabiliti, nè altro deve farsi che apportarvi quelle riforme che il Parlamento crederà necessarie in conseguenza delle vicende dei tempi. Palermo e la Sicilia han preso le armi, non per conquistar nuovi dritti, ma per riprendere quelli di cui nessuno ardiva apertamente spogliarci. A conseguire questo santissimo scopo, abbiamo affrontato il bombardamento, gl'incendj, le mitraglie, le crudeltà delle truppe Regie, e tutte le conseguenze incalcolabili di una grande rivoluzione. La vittoria è nostra in Palermo ed in tutta la Sicilia, gli ostacoli che parevano insormontabili sono stati già superati; qual uomo dunque non privo di senno potrà accogliere l'idea che in mezzo alla gloria del trionfo, questo popolo renunziasse a quei dritti che ha sempre avuto, e che ora ha saputo così valorosamente riconquistare? Il Comitato dunque, tanto per propria intima convinzione quanto come interprete fedele della volontà del popolo, pronunziata nel modo più universale, energico ed imponente, all'annunzio del decreto del 29 Gennajo, ha dato la risposta di cui si acchiude la copia.

L'ultima parte di questa risposta da adito a trattative. La Sicilia può condisendere a non separarsi interamente dal Regno di Napoli, tutte le volte che le sia garantita una rappresentanza separata ed indipendente da quella di Napoli, come l'ebbe per tanti secoli, per provvedere da se stessa ai proprii suoi bisogni ed alla sua felicità, mentre per determinare i rapporti che possano esistere fra i due Regni di Sicilia e di Napoli, potrebbero aprirsi delle trattative, onde giungere ad un accordo che dovrebbe esser sanzionato dal Parlamento Siciliano. In questo punto la mediazione e la guarentigia di un' alta Potenza cui stanno tanto a cuore la rigenerazione dell' Italia e gl'interessi della Sicilia, diviene urgentissima, e non si possono che ripetere le preghiere date col primo indirizzo, sottoscritto da tutti i membri del Comitato Generale.

Il Presidente del Comitato Generale,

(Firmato)

RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

(Translation.)

Palermo, February 3, 1848.

AFTER what the General Committee of Public Safety and Defence had the honour to make known to the Representatives of the English Government with regard to the beginning and progress of the revolution in Palermo and the wishes constantly and unanimously expressed by the people to return to their ancient institutions, it is necessary now to show that all the cities of Sicily have evinced the same conformity of thought and object; that important deeds of arms have taken place in cities where large military forces existed; that everywhere the people has been victorious, as at Trapani, Catania, Termini; and that now there is not a spot on the island which has not manifested the wish to follow in all things the aim of the people of Palermo, which is never to lay down their arms until the General Parliament in Palermo shall have suited to the times the Constitution of 1812, which was acknowledged by all the Powers and implicitly confirmed by the Decrees of 1816 after the Congress of Vienna. The city of Messina itself, which hitherto has been disturbed by municipal jealousies, is at this moment defying the King's troops which are concentrated in the citadel, has constituted a Revolutionary Committee to help the rest of the island in the common cause, and is now preparing to attack with artillery and arms, which are now in the power of the people, those formidable fortifications. Caltanissetta which in 1820 separated itself from the national cause, has now written in a sense which atones for the former fault. In short the wish of Sicily at large is united, immense, unalterable.

In this state of affairs, as the triumph of the Sicilian revolution is certain, the General Committee of Palermo has determined to assume the provisional government of all the island, for the purpose of preserving the State, re-establishing order, providing for the public defence, and quickly convoking the General Parliament in Palermo, into whose hands they will depose their authority. To-day however has arrived a decree of the 29th of January last, in which the King promises to his subjects of the Two Sicilies a Constitution, the basis of which it would be needless to repeat, as they are certainly well known to those to whom this document is addressed.

The first idea which this decree presents and which alone would suffice to make it rejected by Sicily, is that Sicily and the Kingdom of Naples are to continue to form one joint kingdom, and that the national representation is to be joint. In consequence of this Sicily not only would not obtain any advantages, but as its representatives would naturally be in a proportionate minority it would find itself in a worse position than before, because there would then be the appearance of legality. The Sicilians rejoice that the blood which they have shed and which they now are shedding has acquired for their brothers of Naples a Constitution, but the Sicilians are in quite a different position from the Neapolitans. Here in Sicily the Constitution is a most ancient plant, and by law has never ceased to exist. The Peerage and electoral census are established

by the Constitution itself, nor require aught but those reforms which Parliament may consider necessary in consequence of the change in the times. Palermo and Sicily have taken up arms not for the purpose of conquering new rights, but for the reacquirement of those of which none have ever dared openly to deprive us. To attain this sacred object we have dared the bombardment, the fires, the grape, the cruelty of the King's troops, and all the incalculable consequences of a great revolution.

The victory is ours in Palermo and in all Sicily, the obstacles which appeared insurmountable have been already surmounted. Who then possessed of common sense could entertain the idea that in the midst of the glories of triumph this people would renounce those rights which they have always possessed and which they have now known how so bravely to reconquer?

The Committee therefore from their own personal conviction, as well as being the faithful interpreters of the people's will, pronounced in the most universal, imposing, and energetic manner on the occasion of the announcement of the Decree of January 29, has given the answer of which the copy is inclosed.

The last part of this answer opens a field for negotiation. Sicily can agree not to separate itself entirely from the Kingdom of Naples if so be that a representation be guaranteed to it separate and independent from that of Naples, such as it possessed for so many centuries, so as to be enabled to provide by itself for its own wants and happiness; whilst for the settlement of the relations which should exist between the two Kingdoms of Sicily and Naples, negotiations might be set on foot so as to come to an agreement which must be sanctioned by the Sicilian Parliament. Here then the mediation and guarantee of one of the Great Powers who takes an interest in the regeneration of Italy and the affairs of Sicily becomes most urgent, and we cannot do otherwise than repeat the request contained in the first letter which was signed by all the members of the General Committee.

The President of the General Committee.

(Signed)

RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

Royal Decree of January 29.

[See Inclosure in No. 48.]

Reply of the General Committee.

IL Re con questo decreto ha promesso ai suoi sudditi una Costituzione; in questa promessa non si parla nè dei nostri diritti nè della nostra Costituzione, e si fa chiaramente comprendere che non vi sarà per tutti i due regni che un sol Parlamento da riunirsi nella città di Napoli. Nella Costituzione promessa il Re dovrà eleggere i Pari, il Re dovrà stabilire il censo della rendita da possedersi dai Deputati. Una Paria scelta dal Re non dà nessuna garanzia alla nazione; il censo da definirsi potrebbe essere sì enorme da limitare il libero volere del popolo nella scelta dei suoi rappresentanti. Noi fermamente crediamo che i nostri fratelli del Regno di Napoli coi quali senza perdere la nostra individualità vogliamo esser congiunti, comprenderanno l'instabilità, la poca efficacia di una Costituzione i di cui elementi dovranno comporsi dall'assoluto volere del Principe; se essi se ne appagheranno, godremo che il nostro sangue avrà fruttato anche a loro questi benefizj. Ma la Sicilia non domanda nuove istituzioni; ed imbrandì le armi, ed ha vinto, per riprendere l'esercizio dei suoi diritti che possiede da tanti secoli, che non ha mai perduto, che vuole tramandare illesi alla posterità. Essa ha chiesto, che il Parlamento Generale per la Sicilia si riunisca in Palermo, e da questa libera assemblea eletta dalla nazione, non da norme arbitrarie e mal sicure, ma su leggi stabili e

sancite dal voto generale del popolo legalmente espresso, si attendono quelle riforme che il progresso e l'efficacia del tempo han reso oggi necessarie; però non può deporre le armi nè sospendere le ostilità finchè il desiderio universale del Popolo Siciliano abbia il suo compimento. Per la qual cosa al Comandante del Forte che rimise copia del decreto al Comitato Generale, a voti unanimi così si rispose.

Comitato Generale in Palermo.

Signor Comandante,

Palermo, 3 Febbraio, 1848.

QUESTO Comitato Generale ha letto il Decreto del 29 Gennaio, che promette una Costituzione al Regno delle Due Sicilie.

Noi abbiamo dichiarato che la Sicilia rappresentata in General Parlamento in Palermo dovrà adattare ai tempi la costituzione che quest'isola per tanti secoli ha posseduto, che nel 1812 fu riformata sotto l'influenza della Gran Bretagna, e che col Decreto del 11 Dicembre, 1816, posteriore agli Atti del Congresso di Vienna fu confermata.

Tutte le città della Sicilia hanno già dichiarato la loro adesione a questo voto così solennemente espresso dal Popolo Palermitano colle armi alle mani, e varie città dell'isola hanno pure colle armi consacrato questo voto universale.

Quindi non possiamo che ripetere quello già tante volte solennemente manifestato, cioè che la Sicilia non deporrà le armi nè sospenderà le ostilità se non quando il General Parlamento riunito in Palermo abbia adattato ai tempi la costituzione che mai ha cessato di possedere.

Possiamo solo aggiungere che è anche voto universale di unirci al Regno di Napoli con legami speciali che debbono dal Parlamento di Sicilia sanzionarsi, e formare insieme due anelli della bella federazione Italiana.

Il Presidente,

(Firmato)

RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

Al Signor Comandante di Castellamare.

Sia ciò noto alla città di Palermo e a tutte le comuni della Sicilia.

(Translation.)

BY this decree the King has promised a constitution to his subjects. There is no mention in this decree either of our rights or of our Constitution, and it clearly gives to understand that there will be but one Parliament for the two kingdoms, which is to meet in the city of Naples. In the promised Constitution the King is to choose the Peers, the King is to fix the amount of the property qualification of the Deputies. A Peerage chosen by the King gives no guarantee to the nation; the property qualification to be fixed may be so enormous as to limit the free will of the people in the choice of their representatives. We firmly believe that our brothers of the Kingdom of Naples, with whom we wish to remain united without losing our individuality, will comprehend the instability and inefficacy of a Constitution, the elements of which are to be compounded by the absolute will of the Prince; if they are contented with it we shall rejoice that our blood has gained for them also these advantages. But Sicily does not ask for new institutions, she has taken up arms and she has conquered, in order to resume the exercise of the rights which she has possessed for so many centuries, which she has never lost, which she is desirous of transmitting unimpaired to posterity. She has demanded that the General Parliament of Sicily should meet in Palermo, and from that free assembly elected by the nation, not by arbitrary and insecure rules but by firm laws sanctioned by the general wish of the people lawfully declared, those reforms are expected which have now been rendered necessary by progress and the circumstances of the times, and she cannot lay down her arms nor suspend hostilities until the universal wish of the Sicilian people shall be accomplished. Wherefore an answer has been unanimously given to the Commandant of the fort, who transmitted the copy of the decree to the General Committee.

General Committee in Palermo.

Signor Commandant,

Palermo, February 3, 1848.

THIS General Committee has read the Decree of the 29th of January, which promises a Constitution to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

We have declared that Sicily, represented in a General Parliament in Palermo, must adapt to the times the Constitution which this island has possessed for so many ages, which was reformed in 1812 under the influence of Great Britain, and which was confirmed by the Decree of the 11th of December, 1816, subsequently to the acts of the Congress of Vienna.

All the towns of Sicily have already declared their adhesion to this wish so solemnly expressed by the people of Palermo with arms in their hands, and several towns of the island have also consecrated this universal desire with arms.

We can therefore only repeat that which has been already so many times solemnly declared, that Sicily will not lay down her arms, nor suspend hostilities, until the General Parliament assembled in Palermo shall have adapted to the times that Constitution, which it has never ceased to possess.

We can only add that it is also the universal wish to be united to the Kingdom of Naples by special ties which shall be sanctioned by the Parliament of Sicily, and to form together two links of the beautiful Italian Confederation.

The President,
(Signed) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

To the Signor Commandant of Castellamare.

Let this be made known to the city of Palermo and to all the districts of Sicily.

No. 66.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 17.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 8, 1848.

I ARRIVED here on the night of the 4th and on the 6th had my audience of Their Sicilian Majesties, to whom I delivered my letters of credence and who received me with much kindness and cordiality.

I took this opportunity of assuring His Majesty that in availing myself of the invitation to his Court with which he had honoured me, it would afford me much pleasure should it be in my power to contribute to the restoration of peace in his dominions.

The King replied that I doubtless should be able to render him important service, and he begged me to confer with the Duke of Serra Capriola.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 67.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 17.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 8, 1848.

HER Majesty's steam-ship "Bulldog" arrived here the night before last with intelligence of the surrender of the fortress of Palermo to the insurgents, who have been equally successful in other parts of the island, the whole of which with the single exception of the citadel of Messina is now in their possession.

Captain Key brought letters to Lord Napier and myself from the President of the General Committee communicating the answer which had

been given to the Royal Decree of the 29th of January, and the resolution of the Sicilians to re-establish their Constitution of 1812 with such modifications as had become necessary.

Lord Napier will transmit copies and translations of these documents, and I must also trust to the information which your Lordship will receive from him with regard to recent events and the present state of affairs in Sicily and at Naples, as my time has been entirely occupied in seeing the number of persons with whom it is necessary that I should converse.

I have reason to hope that it may be possible to induce the Sicilians to accept of the separate Constitution which may be offered to them, provided there be such a recognition as they require of their existing constitutional rights, upon which they insist.

The King is chiefly anxious to secure the union of the Crowns of the Two Sicilies in one kingdom as described in the Treaty of Vienna of 1815; and this may be effectually done if the Neapolitan Government proceeds with sincerity in seeking an accommodation with the Sicilians.

I have seen the Duke of Serra Capriola this morning and advised him in the separate Constitution to be offered to Sicily to give it rather the character of a reform of the Constitution of 1812, however much altered, than of a new Constitution *octroyée* by the King, in which form it would not be acceptable.

I also strongly urged a compliance with the wishes of the Sicilians on one or two points on which they feel strongly, and above all that no time should be lost in making the intentions of the Government known in Sicily before a Parliament shall have been assembled in that island.

The Duc de Serra Capriola promised to report to the King the substance of my opinions on these and various other points which I have not now time to report to your Lordship; but he appeared to me unwilling to encourage the personal intervention of Lord Napier or of myself in Sicily, which I believe may be necessary in order to induce the Sicilians to abate somewhat of their present demands. His Excellency also appeared in less haste than I thought desirable to terminate the affair, and it is supposed that he may be waiting for the arrival of M. de Bussières.

The King however, I have to-day been assured, is anxious for an early reconciliation with his subjects in Sicily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 68.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 9, 1848.

I INCLOSE the copy of a letter which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo with reference to the several communications addressed to me by the General Committee established there.

I to-day had an opportunity of letting the Duc de Serra Capriola see this letter, and the only objection taken by his Excellency was that I had announced a separate Constitution instead of a separate Legislature for Sicily which the King was willing to accord to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure in No. 68.

The Earl of Minto to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Naples, February 8, 1848.

SEVERAL communications having been addressed to me by the General Committee of Palermo, in which an earnest wish is expressed for the mediation of the British Government, I have to request that you will

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take an opportunity of informing the General Committee that I am not possessed of such authority as without further instructions could enable me to pledge the faith of my Government as guarantee for any conditions that might be obtained.

I wish the General Committee however to be assured that, mindful of the intimate relations long subsisting between our two countries, it will afford me lively satisfaction to find that I may be instrumental in the restoration of peace through any good offices which my presence here may enable me to render.

I would fain hope that as it appears to be the intention of His Majesty that his Sicilian subjects should be governed under a separate constitution of their own, a great step has already been made towards a reconciliation, which may present the two members of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies not less inseparably united, though with a distinct legislature in each.

Whilst expressing the deep interest I feel in the prosperity of Sicily, it may be proper that I should add my conviction that the British Government, regarding the territorial arrangements made by the Treaty of Vienna in 1815 as an inviolable engagement to which it was a party, will feel itself bound to maintain the united sovereignty of the Two Sicilies as then established, and the more so when Sicily shall again enjoy the benefit of a free constitution, which of right she is entitled to.

My best exertions shall be employed in endeavouring to promote a just and honourable accommodation, and I trust that they will be aided by a spirit of conciliation and moderation on the part of the General Committee.

I beg that you will have the goodness to read this letter unofficially to the President and any members of the General Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 69.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 10, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a communication which I have received in answer to my note to the Duke of Serra Capriola of the 1st instant, in which I consented to employ the mediation of Her Majesty's Legation in Sicily under certain conditions.

Your Lordship will observe that the Neapolitan Government have not thought fit to accept the good offices of Her Majesty's Legation, pleading the 104th Article of the Treaty of Vienna, on which they seem inclined to place a false interpretation, as if it not only established the union of the Crowns of Naples and Sicily, but an absolute conformity of institutions between the two countries.

The Duke of Serra Capriola having also passed over in silence the transactions which passed between His Sicilian Majesty and the Neapolitan Council and myself, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch of the 3rd instant, I thought the opportunity a favourable one for placing those circumstances on record in the accompanying reply, not that I complain of the change of resolution embraced by the Neapolitan Cabinet, but that I think some explanation ought to have been offered to Her Majesty's Legation after what had passed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

*The Duke of Serra Capriola to Lord Napier.**Napoli, febbrajo 5, 1848.*

IL Sottoscritto, &c., ha ricevuto la nota del 1° febbrajo, diretta da Lord Napier, &c., in replica di quella che aveagli egli indirizzata sotto la stessa data per interessarlo a mettersi mediatore di unita all' Incaricato di Affari di Sua Maestà il Rè de' Francesi, nella qualità di Rappresentanti di due grandi Potenze amiche, onde far cessare per l'amore dell'umanità l'effusione di sangue in Sicilia.

Il Sottoscritto nel renderne grazie al Signor Incaricato di Affari pe' sentimenti che esprime in detta nota, e del desiderio di secondare le vedute del Rè, non può dispensarsi di farle alcune osservazioni sulle condizioni che ha creduto dover porre alla chiesta mediazione, le quali vanno al di là di quanto formava l'oggetto delle premure del Rè, quello cioè di porre un termine allo spargimento del sangue.

Il Sottoscritto nel dirigersi a Lord Napier d'ordine del suo Sovrano per l'assunto indicato, non intralasciò dirle che lo scopo della Maestà Sua era quello di far cessare la strage, onde potersi conoscere con calma le difficoltà che potevano tuttavia esistere pel perfetto ristabilimento dell'ordine e della tranquillità e sicurezza publica, ed avvisare in seguito a' mezzi proprj a conseguire il salutare scopo che forma l'unico voto della Maestà Sua.

Il Rè con l'atto sovrano del 29 del passato mese ha data una irrefragabile pruova del suo desiderio e della sua determinazione di occorrere a' bisogni di tutti i suoi sudditi facendo ad essi la concessione di un regime Costituzionale comune all'una ed all'altra parte de' suoi Reali dominj, e del quale i Siciliani potrebbero cominciare a godere; ritrovandosi nello stesso atto sanzionato l'istituzione della Guardia Nazionale, e con atto separato essendo stata proclamata l'amnistia generale, le quali ultime disposizioni il Signor Incaricato di Affari ha suggerito nella citata sua nota.

Per tutte le altre cose che Lord Napier accenna, il Sottoscritto non può dispensarsi di farle osservare, che Sua Maestà rispettando religiosamente la santità de' trattati, non può leggermente esporsi alla taccia di aver mancato all' esecuzione de' medesimi, ed in conseguenza al principio dell' unione delle due parti de' suoi Stati in un sol regno, siccome trovasi sanzionato nell'Articolo 104 del Congresso di Vienna de 9 Giugno, 1815, sottoscritto dai Plenipotenziarj di Sua Maestà Britannica e da quelli di tutte le altre Grandi Potenze che vi presero parte, per riordinare il diritto di Europa manomesso per cagione de' precedenti sconvolgimenti.

Il Sottoscritto dopo le sopra scritte osservazioni, si augura che il Signor Incaricato di Affari di Sua Maestà la Regina della Gran Bretagna vorrà persuadersi delle potenti ragioni per le quali la Maestà Sua non può accettare la mediazione offerta da Lord Napier: la saviezza del Rè ed il suo amore per i suoi sudditi dovendo servire di certa guarantigia, che la Maestà Sua con tutto il buon volere si presterà a quelle misure che possono conciliare gl'impegni da essa presi con le Grandi Potenze per la felicità de' suoi popoli.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Firmato)

DUCA DI SERRA CAPRIOLA.

(Translation.)

Naples, February 5, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has received the note of February 1st, addressed to him by Lord Napier, &c., in reply to his own of the same date, in which he besought his mediation, conjointly with that of the French Chargé d'Affaires, as Representatives of two great friendly Powers, for the purpose of putting a stop for the sake of humanity to the effusion of blood in Sicily.

The Undersigned in returning thanks to the Chargé d'Affaires for the sentiments which he expresses in the said note and for his wish to promote the views of the King, cannot however do less than make some observations as to the conditions under which he has thought it right to offer the requested mediation, which go beyond the object of the King's desire, namely the stoppage of bloodshed in Sicily.

The Undersigned in applying to Lord Napier by order of his Sovereign for this purpose, did not omit to inform him that His Majesty's object was to put an end to the slaughter in order to be able calmly to consider the obstacles which may yet exist to the perfect re-establishment of order, tranquillity, and public safety, and subsequently to consult on the means of following out the salutary object of the King.

The King by a Royal Decree of the 29th ultimo has given an undeniable proof of his desire and determination to provide for the wants of his subjects by conceding to them a Constitutional system common to both parts of his dominions, which the Sicilians might have begun to enjoy, the institution of the National Guard being sanctioned by the same decree, and a general amnesty having been proclaimed in a separate one, which last were suggested by the Chargé d'Affaires in his above-mentioned note.

As to the other observations of Lord Napier, the Undersigned finds it his duty to observe that His Majesty, religiously respecting the sacred character of treaties, cannot lightly expose himself to the charge of having failed in the execution of the same, and of having deviated from the principle of the union of his States in one sole kingdom, sanctioned in the 104th Article of the Congress of Vienna of June 9, 1815, signed by the Plenipotentiaries of Her Britannic Majesty and the other Great Powers who took part therein for the purpose of reorganizing the international law of Europe which had been nullified by the preceding disturbances.

The Undersigned, after these observations, hopes that Lord Napier will see the justice of the reasons why His Majesty cannot accept the mediation offered by him, as the wisdom of the King and his love for his subjects must be a sufficient guarantee that His Majesty with all good will will adopt such measures as may accord with the engagements which he has entered into in common with the Great Powers for the happiness of his people.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

DUKE OF SERRA CAPRIOLA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Lord Napier to the Duke of Serra Capriola.

Naples, February 9, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a note in reply to his communication of the 1st instant from his Excellency the Duke of Serra Capriola, &c., under date of the 5th instant, but which was not delivered until the 8th, by which the Undersigned is informed that the mediation of Her Majesty's Legation between the Government of Naples and the revolted party in Sicily, invoked by the former in order to arrest the further effusion of blood, cannot be accepted by the Government of His Sicilian Majesty on the conditions proposed by the Undersigned.

His Excellency the Duke of Serra Capriola has also honoured the Undersigned by adding some reflections which may afford matter for the following observations.

When the Undersigned suggested as one of the conditions of his mediation that a National Guard should be constituted in Sicily, he was well aware that such a measure was contemplated by the Royal Ordinance of the 29th ultimo; but though the Undersigned beheld in that ordinance an expression of His Sicilian Majesty's paternal solicitude for the welfare of all his subjects, he was yet prepared to regard it as more peculiarly applicable in its provisions to Naples, an interpretation which the Under-

signed thought would admit a latitude that might prove convenient in certain contingencies, and which the Undersigned can scarcely abandon without some feeling of reluctance.

The Undersigned also apprehended that an urgent necessity prevailed in Sicily, which is the actual seat of armed disturbance, for a more immediate incorporation of a national guard than that foreseen by the terms of the Ordinance of the 29th, which asserts the embodiment of such a force as one of the Articles of a project of Constitution to be submitted to His Majesty the King within ten days from the above-mentioned date, and in conformity doubtless with the terms of a special law to be sanctioned for that object at a period which is not fixed.

In respect to an amnesty of the amplest character which the Undersigned suggested as one of the conditions which would be likely to render his mediation successful, the Undersigned submits to his Excellency the Duke of Serra Capriola, that the act of grace published by His Sicilian Majesty on the 1st instant is not identical with that which he ventured to designate; for the former has reference to political offences committed since the year 1830, and might therefore possibly not cover all the parties engaged in the war of Sicily; and moreover, unless it were of an unlimited and prospective nature, which is not stated, it could not apply to offences committed subsequently by the Sicilians in the interval between the 1st of February and the date of acceptance by both parties and the exercise by the Undersigned of the mediation proposed.

Finally the Undersigned is not enabled to recognize in the terms of the 104th Article in the Treaty of Vienna of June 9, 1815, any obstacle to the conditions of mediation which he had the honour to propose. That Article simply asserts the restoration of King Ferdinand IV to the Throne of Naples, and recognizes His Majesty as King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, but it does not affirm any absolute union or conformity of political institutions, for had such been the case the Parliamentary rights enjoyed by Sicily would surely have been conveyed to Naples together with the long-expected presence and authority of a legitimate Sovereign. Such however did not prove to be the case. When the purely monarchical Kingdom of Naples at length reverted to that natural allegiance never forsaken by more fortunate Sicily, the Parliamentary institutions of the latter were not imparted to the peninsula, for we have no notice of their introduction by any public instrument; while we possess in the 10th Article of the Decree of December 11, 1816, an incontestible proof that the Parliament of Sicily survived as part of the Constitution of that portion of the realm, and that its consent remained essential to legalize the augmentation of the Sicilian contingent of revenue; and the Undersigned is consequently at a loss to discover that any union save that of the Crowns was established by the Treaty of Vienna between the two great members of the Sicilian Monarchy, or that the said Treaty opposed any valid impediment to the acceptance by the Neapolitan Government of the conditional mediation offered by the Undersigned, a mediation which however the Undersigned does not press upon the Government of His Sicilian Majesty nor dispute their right to refuse.

The Undersigned having presented the foregoing remarks to his Excellency the Duke of Serra Capriola in the hope that they may be found to elucidate a subject which attracts the prolonged consideration of the Neapolitan Government, avails himself of this opportunity to congratulate his Excellency the Duke of Serra Capriola on the prospect of reconciliation and tranquillity opened by the late gracious resolution of His Sicilian Majesty to appoint and continue in Sicily the benefits of a separate representative legislature.

This resolution communicated to the Undersigned by his Excellency the Minister of the Interior, and confirmed to him on the 3rd instant in the august presence of His Sicilian Majesty and in the Council of Ministers, was blended with the proposal of some participation on the part of the Undersigned in the preliminary negotiation and guarantee of an armistice, which it was believed would facilitate the communication to the Sicilians of His Majesty's gracious designs for their welfare and contentment.

The Undersigned presumed indeed by the subsequent silence of the

Duke of Serra Capriola, that the views of the Neapolitan Government had been modified in respect to his co-operation in that particular object; but the Undersigned is gratified by learning from the Earl of Minto, Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary on a separate mission, that the Neapolitan Government have not at all abandoned the general principle of a separate Legislature in Sicily, which the Undersigned concurs with them in hoping will contribute to arrest a deplorable conflict of which we are still the regretful and impatient spectators.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

No. 70.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 11, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of an unofficial letter from Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," by which your Lordship will observe that he is actively and successfully engaged in moderating the violence of the insurrectionary party at Messina and in persuading them to await the result of those negotiations in their favour which are being carried on at Naples.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Captain Codrington to Lord Napier.

Dear Lord Napier,

"Thetis," Messina, February 9, 1848.

THIS morning, I am glad to be able to say, we have just successfully managed a very difficult point which had been pressing us closely. Fort Real Basso was very short of provisions, and is as you know quite detached from the other works. As yet I don't see any chance of its being taken by force, but famine might have done it in a few days; as it was really getting very hard up, it might; every day was of importance. At last the town, through the Comitato, consented to allow a week's provisions to be put in from the citadel that has now been revictualled from Naples by the steamers; for we fairly told the town, and I particularly explained to them, that they could not prevent it being easily done by force, and with little or no loss to the troops though with great danger to the citizens.

My object in favouring this is to give breathing time for your negotiations to go on, and come to some conclusion sufficiently acceptable to Sicily to put an end to hostilities altogether. Pray bear in mind that the final struggle (if any is to be) will be here where the King's military grasp is strongest, and when the parties being armed and in each other's presence and both very irritated, we have extreme difficulty in preventing them from renewing hostilities at any moment. The sooner you can get the King's Ministers to send to the city anything official which may cause the citizens to lay on their oars the better.

The soldiers do not so much want to fight as the insurgents. I went round the lines yesterday and do not think the advanced posts at all likely to be taken yet, and the citadel never by these people. But the Palermo people are, since their citadel has been taken, sending men, arms, ammunitions, and guns here ready for the final struggle to drive the King out of Sicily altogether, if they don't get what they ask. I expect the Admiral here this week from Malta.

Yours, &c.

(Signed)

H. CODRINGTON.

No. 71.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 11, 1848.

I INCLOSE the copy and translation of a communication which will be addressed to the principal Courts of Europe, announcing the changes about to be made in the Constitution of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

This document has been privately communicated to me by the Duc de Serra Capriola before its official transmission, in order that I might be able to make the King's intentions known in Sicily, and ascertain how the projected form of Constitution is likely to be received in that island. I in consequence yesterday wrote to Mr. Goodwin, Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, and to Lord Mount Edgumbe, who is at present resident there, and enjoys I am informed much of the confidence of the principal members of the Provisional Government, the channels through which a favourable impression may best be made on the General Committee. Copies of my letters are here inclosed.

I rather fear that the Sicilians may be disposed to stand out upon their own strong ground of right in their Constitution of 1812, and that they will reject all modification of it but such as may be legally enacted by their own Parliament. But should the Constitution now to be promulgated be in its nature agreeable to them, and be introduced with such apparent respect for their rights as has been promised to me, I think that we may be able to induce them to receive it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 71.

Draft of Note to be addressed by the Neapolitan Government to the Representatives of the Five Great Powers.

Napoli, Febbraio 1848.

SUA Maestà il Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie, dopo che coll' Atto Sovrano del 29 del passato mese, per secondare i voti de' sudditi suoi, introduceva nelle forme governative di tutto il suo regno il regime Costituzionale, nella sua saggezza ha considerato che per le circostanze locali de' suoi Reali Dominj oltre il Faro si rendevano necessarie delle modifiche a quell' Atto Sovrano; ed in conseguenza la Maestà Sua, con lo scopo di consolidare la pace, la tranquillità ed il benessere in tutta la estensione de' suoi Stati, si è determinata ad ordinare:

I. La Costituzione che va a promulgarsi sarà comune per le due parti del regno, ma per la Sicilia vi sarà un Parlamento separato, retto dallo stesso statuto che sarà in vigore in Napoli, per ciò che riguarda gli affari interni dell' isola.

II. L'unità del Regno delle Due Sicilie stabilità dall' Art. 104 del Trattato del Congresso di Vienna del 9 Giugno, 1815, dovendo rimanere intatta ed inalterabile, saranno comuni alle due parti de' Reali Dominj che formano il Regno delle Due Sicilie, i seguenti oggetti:

- 1°. Le Leggi Civili, Penali, e Commerciali.
- 2°. Le Tariffe doganali, il Cabotaggio, i Trattati di Navigazione e di Commercio e di ogni altro Trattato con le Potenze straniere.
- 3°. L'Armata di terra e di mare e le sue pensioni.
- 4°. Gli Affari Esteri.
- 5°. La Lista Civile.
- 6°. La guerra e la pace; e tutto ciò con piena e completa promiscuità senza veruna restrizione, dovendosi soltanto contribuire dalla Sicilia al quarto della spesa.

III. Vi sarà in Sicilia allorquando non vi risiede il Rè, per Luogo-

tenente-Generale, sia un Principe della Famiglia Reale, sia un distinto personaggio Napolitano o Siciliano, restandone la scelta in piena facoltà del Sovrano, due o più Ministri, dei Direttori, e presso il Rè un Ministro Siciliano per riferire in Consiglio gli Affari di Sicilia.

IV. Il Parlamento in Sicilia dovrà riunirsi nelle stesse epoche che quello di Napoli, onde aversi l'opportunità di fare al bisogno ciò che segue.

V. Per tutti gli oggetti indicati nell' Art. 2 in caso di dissenso tra il voto de' due Parlamenti al di qua e al di là del Faro si riunirà nella residenza del Rè una Commissione Mista tirata dai componenti dei due Parlamenti di Napoli e di Sicilia, in proporzione del numero de' medesimi per decidere sulla questione.

VI. Per la proporzione equa e giusta dovrebbero intervenire in detta Commissione Mista per tre quarti Napolitani e per un quarto Siciliani; ma avuto riguardo di essere la Sicilia una parte ben interessante pel Continente, la proporzione si ammetterebbe di due terzi di Napolitani ed un terzo di Siciliani.

VII. Ne' domini al di là del Faro vi sarà anche una Guardia Nazionale.

VIII. L'atto d'indulgenza già pubblicato per tutti i reati politici comprenderà anche i fatti commessi dopo detto atto sovrano, come sarà solennemente dichiarato nella costituzione che andrà a momenti a promulgarsi.

Se il Rè da una banda ha voluto dare una convincente pruova dell'amore ch'esso nutre pe' suoi sudditi, e dello interesse costantissimo che prende alla di loro prosperità facendo loro sì generose concessioni, dall'altra la Maestà Sua è ferma a mantenere l'integrità della sovranità sopra l'unico Regno delle Due Sicilie, a norma di quanto trovasi sanzionato nell' Articolo 104 del Trattato del Congresso di Vienna del 9 Giugno, 1815, col quale la Maestà Sua, tanto per se che per i suoi eredi e successori, fu riconosciuto Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie sotto la garanzia delle Grandi Potenze, le quali riunite in quel memorabile Congresso per ripristinare la pace del mondo, si occuparono a riordinare il diritto pubblico di Europa manomesso per i passati sconvolgimenti.

Sotto siffatti considerazioni Sua Maestà ha ordinato al Sottoscritto, Ministro Segretario di Stato degli Affari Esteri, Presidente del Consiglio de' Ministri, di portare alla conoscenza de' Rappresentanti delle Potenze segnatrice del mentovato Trattato del 9 Giugno, 1815; quali trovansi accreditati presso la sua Real Persona e le concessioni fatte dalla Maestà Sua pel bene dei suoi sudditi, e la sua ferma volontà di voler mantenere illeso il principio della integrità del Regno delle Due Sicilie, nella persuasione che dalle Corti rispettive saran trovate sagge ed apprezzate le prime, e fondata sulla più esatta giustizia la seconda; e che in conseguenza s'impegneranno esse a far rimanere inalterabile la sovranità della Maestà Sua nel modo che trovasi sanzionato nel citato Articolo del Trattato del 9 Giugno, 1815, sotto la garanzia delle mentovate Potenze.

Il sottoscritto quindi in esecuzione de' comandi del Rè suo Augusto Padrone, si fa un dovere di partecipare ciò a nella ferma fiducia che la Maestà Sua ed il suo Gabinetto vorranno far uso de' loro buoni uffici onde la condotta del Rè sia giustamente apprezzata, e con effetto manteuuta senza alcuna alterazione la sovranità della Maestà Sua nella pienezza stabilita dal Congresso di Vienna.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Translation.)

Naples, February 1848.

HIS Majesty the King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies having in compliance with the wishes of his subjects, by Sovereign Decree of the 29th of last month, introduced the Constitutional system into the governing forms of his whole kingdom, has in his wisdom considered that from the local circumstances subsisting in his dominions situated beyond the Faro, certain modifications had become necessary to that sovereign act; and His Majesty has in consequence determined, with a view to the consolidation of peace, tranquillity and happiness throughout the whole extent of his States, to decree as follows:—

I. The Constitution about to be promulgated shall be common to the two portions of the kingdom, but in Sicily there shall be a separate Parliament ruled by the same statute which is in force at Naples, in such matters as regard the internal affairs of the island.

II. In order that the unity of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies established by Article 104 of the Act of the Congress of Vienna of the 9th of June, 1815, shall remain inviolate and inalterable, the following matters shall be common to the two portions of the Royal dominions constituting the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies:—

1st. The Civil, Criminal and Commercial Laws.

2nd. The Customs Tariffs, Coasting Trade, Treaties of Navigation and Commerce, as well as all other Treaties with Foreign Powers.

3rd. The Army and Navy and the pensions accruing to them.

4th. Foreign Affairs.

5th. The Civil List.

6th. War and peace. All these subjects will be fully and entirely common to the two countries, without any restriction whatsoever, Sicily contributing only in the proportion of one-fourth to the expenses.

III. During such period as the King is not resident in Sicily there shall be a Lieutenant-General, either a Prince of the Royal Family or some other distinguished Neapolitan or Sicilian personage, the choice of whom will rest entirely with the Sovereign, two or more Ministers, a certain number of Directors, and a Sicilian Minister, to reside with the King, to whom will be referred in Council the affairs of Sicily.

IV. The Sicilian Parliament will meet at the same period as that of Naples, for the purpose if necessary of proceeding as follows:—

V. For all such matters as are specified in Article II, and in case of dissent between the votes of the two Parliaments on this side and beyond the Faro, a Mixed Commission shall meet in the King's residence, composed of Members of the Parliaments of Naples and Sicily, in proportion to their respective numbers, to decide upon the question at issue.

VI. The equitable and just proportions constituting this Mixed Commission would be three-fourths Neapolitans and one-fourth Sicilians; but in consideration of the great consequence of Sicily to the continent, the proportion would be admitted of two-thirds Neapolitans and one-third Sicilians.

VII. There shall also be a National Guard in the dominions situated beyond the Faro.

VIII. The act of indulgence already published for all political offences will comprise also such acts as have been committed since the above sovereign act, and shall be solemnly declared in the Constitution which is about to be promulgated.

If the King on the one hand has been anxious to give an undeniable proof of the affection which he entertains for his subjects, and of the unvarying interest he takes in their prosperity by making to them such generous concessions, on the other hand His Majesty is determined to maintain the integrity of his sovereignty over the single Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in conformity with the sanction implied in the 104th Article of the Act of the Congress of Vienna of the 9th of June, 1815, by which His Majesty, as well for himself as for his heirs and successors, was recognized as King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, under the guarantee of the Great Powers met in that memorable Congress to re-establish the peace of the world and to re-adjust the public law of Europe which had been unsettled by previous convulsions.

Under such considerations His Majesty has commanded the Under-signed, Minister Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, President of the Council of Ministers, to bring to the knowledge of the Representatives of the Powers signing the above-mentioned Treaty of the 9th of June, 1815, accredited to His Royal Person, both the concessions which His Majesty has made for the welfare of his subjects and his firm determination to uphold inviolate the principle of the integrity of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, under the persuasion that the respective Courts will deem the former wise and expedient and the latter founded upon the most literal justice, and that they will in consequence pledge themselves to maintain

inalterably the sovereignty of His Majesty in the manner sanctioned by the above-mentioned Article of the Treaty of the 9th June, 1815, under the guarantee of the Powers above cited.

The Undersigned therefore, in obedience to the commands of the King his August Master, has the honour to make this communication to
in the confident belief that His Majesty and his Cabinet will employ their good offices to ensure the right appreciation of the King's conduct and the effectual maintenance without the least detriment of His Majesty's sovereignty in the plenitude established by the Congress of Vienna.

The Undersigned, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 71.

The Earl of Minto to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Naples, February 10, 1848.

I HAVE but a moment to transmit to you the heads of the Constitution which is about to be decreed for the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and which has just been confidentially communicated to me. It is desirable that this should reach the knowledge of the General Committee of Palermo, and I cannot but express my earnest hope that they will come to the consideration of the subject in a spirit of conciliation and moderation.

I have written confidentially to Lord Mount Edgumbe, who will be able to give you further information, and I shall be anxious to hear from you and from his Lordship by the first occasion.

It is I need hardly observe extremely desirable on all accounts that a final arrangement of these matters should be arrived at without their falling into the hands of an European Congress, and this is especially of much importance to the Sicilians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 71.

The Earl of Minto to the Earl of Mount Edgumbe.

(Private.)

My dear Lord Mount Edgumbe,

Naples, February 10, 1848.

IT may be useful, and may possibly enable you to contribute to a pacification in these kingdoms, that I should put you in possession more accurately than I could do two days ago of the intentions of this Government.

In the first place the unity of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies under one Sovereign is a principle established and to be maintained as the basis of any constitution, and they will admit of nothing in the slightest degree modifying or deviating from this principle. Beyond this there is as it appears to me every disposition to consult the wishes of the Sicilians in the form of Government to be established for them with a separate legislature of their own.

It is desired and was intended that there should be a perfect uniformity in the institutions of Sicily and Naples; but this will not now be insisted upon. They pertinaciously adhere to the determination that there shall be but one constitution for the two members of the kingdom, but this constitution admits of a separate legislature and separate administration in each, and of a dissimilarity in the constitution of the respective legislatures in the two countries. For example, it is intended that the Peerage for Naples should only have an interest in their seats in Parliament for life; if hereditary seats for a portion (or if sufficient materials exist, for the whole probably) of the members of the Upper House

be desired in Sicily, no objection will be made to such an arrangement. And so with regard to other particulars in which it may be thought desirable to make a difference in the local regulations of the two countries.

Knowing the importance justly attached by the Sicilians to their existing rights as legally subsisting under the Constitution of 1812, I have strongly urged that in the decree now to be promulgated, establishing a new representative constitution, some notice should be introduced in the preamble, of that constitution which is held to be no longer adapted to the circumstances of the country, and that thus the new institutions should appear in some measure connected with the ancient rights of the island. This has been promised me and I hope it will be done.

I write this letter in the greatest haste to go by the steamer, after a conversation with M. Bozzelli, the Minister of the Interior, who is charged with the duty of drawing up the Constitution, the greater part of which has already been approved of by the King in Council, and the whole of which will probably receive his sanction to-day.

I shall send the Consul an abstract of an official communication this moment made to me as I am finishing my letter, of the heads of the intended Constitution.

I can hardly exaggerate the importance of an early acquiescence of the Sicilians, if it can be obtained, in the substance of the proposed arrangements. An appeal to Europe by the King and the transfer of these questions to a Congress of Foreign Powers, would be most unfortunate for the Sicilians and full of evil and danger to Italy as well as to the rest of the world.

You see I trust to your disposition to render a great service, by endeavouring to enlist you in this negotiation.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 72.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 11, 1848.

WHEN the King announced his intention of granting a free constitution, it was at first proposed that there should be a legislative union of the Two Sicilies with the same Parliament.

The Sicilians, however, who conceived that they had won back their Constitution of 1812, which though long suspended had never been revoked, were not disposed to abandon the assertion of their ancient rights by the acceptance of a new constitution at the hands of the King, and they still more strongly objected to a legislative union which might in a great measure subject them to Neapolitan authority.

This design therefore was abandoned, and it was determined that a separate legislature should be given to each of the Two Sicilies.

But here a difficulty arose. The King, in order to maintain the absolute unity of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies as understood by him to be recognised by the 104th Article of the Treaty of Vienna in 1815, insisted upon establishing by his own authority one constitution comprehending separate legislatures for the two countries, and would admit of no intervention of the old Sicilian Parliament in the revision of its institutions.

The Sicilians on the other hand, elated with the success of their arms against the King's troops, and undisputed masters of the country, were bent upon the convocation of their own Parliament to sanction any changes which it might be expedient to make in the Constitution.

This would doubtless have been the easiest as well as the legal course to proceed in; but as it was one to which there was no hope of obtaining the King's consent, all his Ministers except one being Neapolitans, it became necessary to seek some means of rendering the Constitution to be established by the King as acceptable as possible to the Sicilians, in form and substance.

I had several conferences with the Duc de Serra Capriola and M. Bozzelli on this subject, and they at length consented not to require an absolute uniformity in the constitution of the Parliaments of the two parts of the kingdom, giving to Sicily, if desired, an hereditary Peerage, and consulting the wishes of the country in other details of the arrangement.

I was also assured that the new Constitution should as regards Sicily be introduced with a preamble referring to the ancient rights of that kingdom and to the altered circumstances of the country, to which the Constitution established in 1812 was no longer adapted; thus in some degree appearing to connect what is now to be done, with existing rights and tradition.

On this assurance I consented to employ such influence as my advice might have in Sicily to induce the people to accept any fair Constitution that might be presented to them, subject to its confirmation in their first Parliament.

But here the Government has given me no assistance; they have had no communication, public or private, with the General Committee of Palermo, nor indeed, so far as I can learn, with any one in or connected with the island. They have sought no means either of learning what is desired there or of procuring support for their plan.

This evening the Constitution for the Two Sicilies, of which a copy shall be sent to your Lordship, has been published, avowedly establishing one united Parliament for the two countries, and only leaving an opening for the different arrangement which is intended, in the very vague reservation of the insular question in the 87th Article.

It is easy to foresee what effect the receipt of this proclamation in Sicily must produce, as following the assurances yesterday transmitted there by me.

As I was much engaged this evening, Lord Napier was good enough to wait upon M. Bozzelli, to remonstrate in his own name and in mine against this apparent abandonment of the assurances which he had authorized me to convey to Sicily; and his Excellency has undertaken to supply the omission.

But in the meanwhile an unfavourable impression will have been made in Sicily, and some violent resolutions may be taken.

My own inclination would have led me to refrain from all interference, and to leave the Government of Naples and the Sicilians to take their own course, in which case the latter would have re-established their old Constitution and left Naples under the new one. But in the first place it was to be feared that the Sicilians would not have stopped here, and would have entirely thrown off their allegiance to the King of Naples. This they are quite prepared to do. And in the next place I feel it to be of incalculable importance that these affairs should be settled as quickly as possible, and before they become a subject of European dissension or discussion.

I found on my arrival here a great distrust of the intentions of the British Government, which, notwithstanding all my exertions to promote a reconciliation with Sicily, is scarcely yet entirely removed.

The strangest suspicions were entertained of our designs on Sicily, and I was asked with great earnestness what were our views with regard to that island and the maintenance of its connection with the Crown of Naples. I was told that the Sicilians aimed at a separation and that they looked to England for support.

My language on these occasions has been that we recognized the obligations of the 104th Article of the Treaty of Vienna, so far as it went; and that it was our wish and our interest that the union of the Crowns as then provided for should be maintained. That I was ready to make it clearly understood in Sicily that no support or countenance was to be expected from England in any attempt to separate from Naples, so long (as appeared at present to be intended) as their rights were respected and fair conditions were offered to them.

But I at the same time always observed that I held the suspension of the Constitution of 1812 and the establishment of arbitrary Government in Sicily to have been an illegal usurpation which the Sicilians were justified in resisting; that they are at this moment strictly speaking

entitled to the enjoyment of that Constitution, and cannot be regarded as in rebellion against a lawful authority. That in point of fact it was Naples which was reunited to Sicily by the Treaty of Vienna, no new disposition of the latter being then made; that we, in maintaining the union of the kingdom under that Treaty, must be understood as not less respecting the rights of the people than the unity of the sovereignty; and that the free constitution of Sicily was as surely a condition of the union which we recognize, as was the royal succession to the Crown.

I have however always professed my desire that they should come to a practical accommodation without standing out on pure questions of right; and I have given the strongest assurance that all the means in my power shall be employed to induce the Sicilians to accept of reasonable conditions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 73.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 12, 1848.

M. BOZZELLI called upon me this morning by the King's desire, with the fullest assurance of all those conditions which I had given the Sicilians to understand would be granted to them in the structure of their Parliament, and in the terms in which the new Constitution should be promulgated to them.

His Excellency was further charged by His Majesty with a very earnest and pressing request to me, that I would consent to interpose my good offices by my personal mediation, and endeavour to effect an accommodation on the general grounds which we had discussed together.

I said that my mission had no other object than that of endeavouring to promote the peace and tranquillity and prosperity of Italy; and that I should not decline the duty with which it was desired to charge me, if I found that my services were likely to be equally acceptable to the Sicilians on such terms as I might be authorized to propose.

M. Bozzelli asked me to proceed to Palermo to-morrow, but I told him I should wish to receive answers to the letters I had written to Mr. Consul Goodwin and Lord Mount Edgumbe before I embarked in such an undertaking; that these answers would possibly reach me to-morrow, but pretty certainly the next day, and that I should hold myself in readiness to sail the moment I found that I might hope to be of any service.

It is therefore probable that I may on the 14th proceed to Sicily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 74.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Vienna, February 13, 1848.

THE Austrian Government received the day before yesterday the account of the application to Her Majesty's Government and the Government of France to mediate between the King of Naples and the Sicilians.

I have not heard here any objections to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 75.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 21, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd instant, reporting what passed at the interview which you had with His Sicilian Majesty on that day, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the course pursued by you on that occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 76.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

Sir,

Admiralty, February 21, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, dated at Malta, the 12th instant, reporting his having received a letter from Lord Napier, dated Naples the 9th of February, on the subject of the appearance of the squadron under the Vice-Admiral's orders at Naples, as likely to aid in the negotiations carrying on with the Neapolitan Government, and stating that he hoped the squadron would clear Valetta harbour that morning.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Malta, 7 A.M., February 12, 1848.

BY a Neapolitan steam-vessel just arrived, I have received a letter from Lord Napier, dated Naples, 9th February, 1848, who informs me that the presence of the squadron there will probably add weight to the negotiation which Lord Minto and himself have in hand.

I request you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I have every hope the squadron will clear Valetta harbour this morning, as reported in my letter of yesterday.

I understand the citadel at Palermo is evacuated and all the Neapolitan soldiers have returned to Naples.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 77.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 22, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 9th instant, inclosing the copy of a letter which your Lordship had addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, in reply to the communication from the General Committee established in that capital, I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve of that reply.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 78.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 22, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 11th instant, inclosing a copy of the communication about to be addressed by the Neapolitan Government to the principal Courts of Europe, relative to the proposed changes in the Constitution of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, as well as copies of the letters which your Lordship has addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo and to Lord Mount Edgcumbe with reference to that communication; I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve of those letters. I have at the same time to point out to your Lordship that the 104th Article of the Treaty of Vienna contains an acknowledgment of the King of Naples as King of the Two Sicilies, but contains no guarantee on the part of the Contracting Parties.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 79.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 22, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 11th instant, reporting what passed between yourself and the Neapolitan Government relative to an amicable settlement of their differences with Sicily, I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve the language held and the course pursued by you.

No. 80.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 23.)

(Extract.)

Naples, February 12, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship that I have urged upon M. Bozzelli, the Minister of the Interior, the necessity of taking some active step to bring the affairs of Sicily to an early settlement. I reminded his Excellency that ten days had now elapsed since he first assured me of the King's intentions to grant a separate Legislature to Sicily, and that up to the present moment that resolution had never been communicated to the Sicilians by any direct act of the Neapolitan Government, but that on the contrary the ordinance of the new Representative Constitution would probably in the course of to-morrow be conveyed to Sicily without any assurance whatever of His Sicilian Majesty's resolution to make a concession so ardently desired by that part of his dominions. I therefore advised his Excellency to lose no time in having some announcement of the King's intentions printed and conveyed to Sicily along with the Royal Ordinance containing the outline of a Constitution which is applicable no doubt in its general provisions to both countries, but which would probably have to be modified in some particulars in respect to Sicily, and I recommended M. Bozzelli to insert in any such announcement an article as clear and concise as possible to the effect that the Legislature of Sicily shall possess all the privileges and powers in regard to that country which the Legislature of Naples is to exercise over the interests of its peculiar province.

M. Bozzelli would not hear of any public announcement or of any direct treaty on the part of the King's Government with the insurgents,

but after some discussion agreed to recommend His Sicilian Majesty to empower him to reduce to paper certain conditions of a nature likely to prove grateful to the Sicilians, which should be submitted to the Earl of Minto, and if approved of should then be formally communicated to him as the basis of a mediation to be undertaken by his Lordship. I then informed M. Bozzelli that the English squadron was hourly expected, and would probably be distributed between Naples and Palermo until the final solution of the Sicilian Question.

No. 81.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 23.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 14, 1848.

I INFORMED your Lordship in my last despatches that I had consented to proceed to Palermo.

I yesterday however received the letter of which a copy is inclosed from Lord Mount Edgcombe, giving so little hope of the acquiescence of the Sicilians in the conditions which had been proposed, as to render it necessary that I should endeavour to obtain better terms for them from this Government: and at a long conference with the Duke of Serra Capriola and M. Bozzelli, at which Lord Napier assisted, it was agreed that I should prepare a note of the conditions which I desired to have authority to tender to the General Committee at Palermo, and which I was assured should be submitted to the Council of Ministers this morning.

Lord Napier and I afterwards called upon M. Scovazzo, the most efficient member of the Government, and the inclosed memorandum and conditions were afterwards prepared in conformity with his opinion and advice.

These papers were to-day produced at the Council by M. Bozzelli, but at too late an hour for deliberation, and the further consideration of the subject is postponed till to-morrow.

I cannot venture to predict the decision to be expected, but I think the pacification of Sicily wholly depends upon it; indeed the unnecessary delay of a day which has been incurred may already have rendered it too late to hope for success.

But I am ready to proceed to Palermo the moment I receive authority to propose such terms as are likely to be accepted.

The wisest course would have been to rest satisfied for the present with the inseparable union of the Crowns, without attempting to effect a Legislative Union or quasi union of the two countries, to which the jealous and hostile feelings now existing between them are so strongly opposed.

Being assured that no such proposal would be listened to here, I have not attempted to urge it, but I think it very probable that in the end such must be the arrangement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 81.

The Earl of Mount Edgcombe to the Earl of Minto.

My dear Lord,

Palermo, February 11, 1848.

REGRETTING as I do most sincerely that there is no one whose health and habits enable him better to perform what you request me to attempt, I beg you to be assured that you could find no agent who would be more eager and zealous in furthering your views. Since my arrival here indeed they have been those which on the many occasions which from circumstances have presented themselves, I have done the utmost in my power to instil, foreseeing clearly that the affairs of this country were too likely to assume the importance which you now attach to them.

I yesterday had long interviews with M. Stabile, the Secretary of the Committee, Marechal Ruggiero Settimo, President of the Committee, the man I believe without exception, and deservedly, the most respected in the kingdom, and Prince Scordia, whose position is I believe second only to him; and the result of those interviews did induce me to hope that yourself or Lord Napier would on the spot be able to bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion.

I was confirmed in that opinion by the inclosed paper, which, as far as circumstances have enabled me yet to consider it, appears to me as a basis for negotiations as reasonable as can well be expected.

While however M. Stabile in the presence of Prince Scordia was reading it to me, Captain Lushington brought in the abstract of the proposed Constitution which you had forwarded to the Consul, and it is difficult to describe the irritation which it caused. They called it an insult, and in short used such violent language that I entreated that the meeting might break up and that they would call upon me again this evening accompanied by Ruggiero Settimo, when we could give it a calmer consideration.

Since writing the above, a meeting with the three gentlemen above named, at which were present Captain Lushington and Captain Key, has taken place, and I will give as clear an account of it as possible.

I first remarked upon the inclosed paper, which (without giving any assent or dissent to any propositions contained in it) was, I believed, an accurate account of the feelings and wishes of the people, and I said that as such I would forward it.

Upon it I might make some remarks, but time will hardly allow me to do so.

I must say however that with regard to the King's being the "King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies" instead of "King of the Two Sicilies," I have no doubt whatever they would yield that point without any difficulty; but I do entertain doubts of their long permitting the principle which gives any importance to that title to remain dormant, and that is involved in Article 8, page 65, in the book of the Constitution, which Captain Key will show you, although they have omitted to allude to that clause themselves.

Having remarked upon this, I proceeded to inquire whether my belief as to their objections to the Constitution as sent in the abstract to Mr. Goodwin was correct. I found it was so, and their objections are as follows:

They believe that their Parliament would be deprived of all power to alter laws, impose taxes, and regulate the internal commerce and affairs of the country.

That it would be dependent on the Parliament of Naples, inasmuch as upon any difference they would form so small a minority in the Commission formed of the two to settle it.

They are not willing to receive any Luogotenente who is not a member of the Royal Family, and even said that an inhabitant of Sicily would not satisfy them; and added that while they would consent that Sicily should be bound to contribute a fourth of the amount required for the public service, they must possess the power of raising that amount by such taxes and duties as they think fit, and that consequently they must have the regulation of all import and export duties.

I then proceeded to urge upon them in the strongest terms what deep interests were involved and what might be the consequences of your attempts to arrange matters between them and their Government failing.

Captain Key was present at the meeting and will tell you all on that subject you may wish to know.

The most important point now for consideration is time: you in your letter to me have shown what danger you apprehend from delay; the dangers that they on their part have also to apprehend from the same cause are I assure you great.

Since the flight of His Majesty's forces, order has been maintained to a degree most creditable to the Sicilians, and certainly far beyond what could have been reasonably expected; but that order is entirely dependent upon the goodwill of the people, of which there are many

thousands of the lowest class armed. The Committee have over and over again, by their public proclamations asserted that those arms shall not be laid down until the Parliament of Sicily has assembled in Palermo. In consequence I believe of what you said, the Act for assembling it has been delayed, and Ruggiero Settimo declared (and his assertions may be depended on) that already there have been clamours heard against the delay; and they evidently dread continuing it even till an answer to this can be received from you, willing, as I feel sure they themselves would be to wait longer.

I urged very strongly that by leaving the matter in your hands they would be sure to obtain better terms than by any other means.

They answered that they were willing entirely to believe my assurances in that respect, but that unfortunately the only proposition you had sent to them was such as, according to the interpretation they put upon it, no Sicilian would after their triumph for a moment listen to. I then repeated to them the substance of the above, assuring them that I would write to that effect to you, in the hope that when the Government of Naples was assured of what I am convinced is the truth, namely, that the Sicilians are determined never to yield until very different terms are proposed, you would be able immediately to return some answer such as could be published to the people, and be considered by them a sufficient reason for deferring the assembling of the Parliament, which they say they cannot by possibility otherwise delay longer than the middle of next week.

If you can obtain the King's consent to such a proposition as you may judge can be acceptable to them (conceiving that they would naturally be ready to agree to some concessions), it is undoubtedly most desirable that yourself or Lord Napier should be here on the spot; but I must say, much as for my own sake I should rejoice at your arrival, that the consequence of your coming and subsequently failing in obtaining a settlement of the differences would be most disastrous.

Indeed they all confess that if through England they do not obtain justice, anarchy must sooner or later arrive. They nevertheless appear to be firm in their determination, and I believe that they will be so, influenced by their fears as well as their hopes, for they dread the consequences to themselves of the disappointment of the people of which they are at present the nominal heads.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) MOUNT EDGECUMBE.

P.S.—I have heard that Sir W. Parker is immediately expected at Messina. His presence here would be of the greatest possible advantage.

Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

Sicilian Proposals for a Settlement of the Differences with Naples.

Idee circa il modo di comporre le cose di Sicilia in conseguenza degli ultimi avvenimenti.

Il Governo di Ferdinando II avea recato la Sicilia a quella estremità di mali, per cui è stata essa costretta a gittarsi nella rivoluzione per liberarsene o perire. Come il Rè fosse stato odiato nel corso del suo governo, lo mostra l'unanimità di tutta l'isola e di ogni classe di cittadini nell'affrontare i rischi e le conseguenze della rivolta, e come debba essere detestato adesso ancor più posson farlo comprendere le crudeltà inaudite comandate direttamente da lui per comprimere il popolo. Ogni mezzo per ricondurre alla fiducia ed all'amore e Principe e sudditi è dunque vano oramai, e se si volesse consultare il voto pubblico, non v'è Siciliano che ami riconoscere per Rè colui ch'è stato sinora il tiranno della sua patria. Malgrado frattanto il desiderio di tutti per dichiararsi decaduto Ferdinando II e darsi alla Sicilia un Re proprio, si comprende che le condizioni dell'isola non le permettono di sostenere cotale giusta pretensione. Perciò dovendo necessariamente rimanere il medesimo Ferdinando Rè di Napoli

e di Sicilia, quello su cui i Siciliani non intendono transigere sì è che i Rappresentanti del Rè fosse o quel Principe Reale Don Leopoldo Conte di Siracusa, il quale per la dimora fatta in Sicilia cominciava ad attirarsi l'amore e la stima del popoli, o veramente l'erede presuntivo del Trono; mentre sarebbe impossibile che fosse riguardato senza sdegno e rancore l'altro Principe, Don Luigi Conte d'Aquila, che in Settembre ultimo fu esecutore dello spedizione contra Reggio, e testimonio di quello di Palermo in Gennaro scorso.

Il Ministero di Sicilia dovrebbe esser composto esclusivamente di Siciliani, e scelto principalmente fra coloro i quali fan parte del Comitato di Palermo, e durante la rivoluzione hanno per volontà del popolo assunto la direzione delle cose pubbliche.

Il vote di tutta la Sicilia è stato ed è che il Parlamento adunato in Palermo adattasse ai tempi la Costituzione Siciliana del 1812, ma circa la prima convocazione di tal Parlamento s'incontrano alcune difficoltà.

Primieramente intorno le Parie temporali, è da osservare che non pochi dei Pari indicati nella nota aggiunta all' Atto Parlamentario del 1812, o più non esistono per mancanza di successione e per traslazione delle proprietà, cui la Paria era congiunta, o perchè quelli che attualmente rappresenterebbero gli antichi Pari non hanno l'attitudine e le condizioni che si richieggono per quell' alta dignità.

In secondo luogo è da tener presente quanto ai Pari spirituali che la maggior parte dei Vescovi attuali di Sicilia sono Napolitani, e questo solo basterebbe a farli escludere dalla Camera; ma oltre a ciò deve considerarsi che la elezione di tali Vescovi ebbe luogo per influenza dell' abborrito confessore del Re, Monsignor Coele, e meritavano la dignità episcopale per attaccamento a quei principj che sono direttamente opposti a quelli che nella Camera dovrebbero sostenere.

Passando poi dai Pari ai Rappresentanti, dee convenirsi che il censo stabilito tanto per gli eligibili quanto per gli elettori dalla Costituzione del 1812, non si trova più in corrispondenza con l'attuale stato delle private fortune atteso le vicende dei tempi e la divisione delle proprietà. E necessario quindi portare una conveniente riduzione nel censo, sì degli elettori come degli eligibili, ed inoltre aprire la via di far parte della rappresentanza Nazionale, a coloro che quantunque privi del censo, sono dalla presente civiltà ammessi a parteciparne come capacità intellettuale.

Dopo ciò che è avvenuto nella presente rivoluzione i Siciliani intendono che non siano menomamente alterati gli articoli della Costituzione riguardante la difesa interna dell' isola con un armata esclusivamente Siciliana, e il divieto al potere esecutivo di introdurvi altro esercito anche Napolitano senza il consenso del Parlamento; e ciò anche per la Marina. Una volta che si conviene nelle cose premesse, e la Gran Bretagna ne garantisce l'esecuzione, potrebbe con la mediazione della medesima Potenza trattarsi dal Rè e da una Commissione del Comitato Generale in Palermo intorno al modo di mandarsi ogni cosa ad effetto. E necessario però che si proceda celeremente, perchè il Comitato Generale non può, non deve nè vuole ritardare la convocazione del Parlamento, e se si troverà di aver dato qualche disposizione che non sia poi conciliabile con le idee delle trattative, s'incontrerà un maggior ostacolo nelle stesse.

Non deve intanto perdersi di vista che nel restituirsì alla Sicilia la sua Costituzione nel modo già indicato, debbano evitarsi tutte le espressioni che possono racchiudere l'idea di una concessione che farebbe il Rè; anzi deve esplicitamente dichiararsi che in forza dei dritti della Sicilia, è restituita alla medesima la sua Costituzione.

E necessario inoltre, che la Bandiera Siciliana sia tricolore, perchè qualunque altra non vuole adattarsi. Su questo punto nessuna transazione è possibile. Negare questa Bandiera sarebbe suscitare una novella rivoluzione.

Finalmente, dovrebbe procurarsi che nella intestazione dell' atto sovranò che restituirà alla Sicilia la sua Costituzione, il Rè non si chiamasse Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie, ciò che non si oppone allo spirito del Trattato di Vienna del 1815, ne può suppirsi che le alte Potenze autori di quel Trattato già in tante parti violate senza provocare la

menoma guerra, vogliono metter molta importanza alla conservazione d un pleonasmo grammaticale.

E superfluo aggiungere che alla Sicilia dovrebbe essere restituito il diritto di monetazione che per tanti secoli ha posseduto, e che di fatto e non di diritto in questi ultimi tempi le si è tolto.

(Translation.)

Remarks upon the manner of settling the affairs of Sicily, in consequence of recent events.

THE Government of Ferdinand II had brought upon Sicily such an extremity of evils that she was compelled, in order to liberate herself from them, to have recourse to revolution or to perish. How greatly the King was hated in the course of his government is proved by the unanimity of the whole island and of every class of citizens in affronting the risks and consequences of revolt; and how much greater must now be the detestation he excites may be judged of by the unheard of cruelties perpetrated by his direct commands with a view to the reduction of the people. It would therefore from henceforth be idle to attempt a renewal of confidence between the Prince and his subjects; and if the public wishes were to be consulted, there is not a Sicilian who would recognize as King one who has hitherto proved himself the tyrant of his country. In spite however of the general wish that Ferdinand II should be declared to have forfeited the Throne, and to choose for Sicily a King of her own, it is well understood that the position of the island is not such as to admit of her sustaining such a pretension, however great its justice. Admitting therefore that the said Ferdinand must necessarily still remain King of Naples and of Sicily, there is a point upon which the Sicilians will admit of no compromise, that namely the King's representative shall either be the Royal Prince Don Leopold, Count of Syracuse, whose stay in Sicily was beginning to draw towards him the love and esteem of the people, or else the presumptive heir to the Throne, whilst it would be impossible that the other Prince, Don Louis, Count of Aquila, should not excite the indignation and rancour of the public, as the person who in September last had charge of the expedition against Reggio, and as an eye-witness in January of that directed against Palermo.

The Sicilian Ministry should be composed exclusively of Sicilians, and chosen principally from those who formed part of the Committee of Palermo, and who have during the revolution by the people's desire assumed the direction of public affairs.

The wish of all Sicily has been and is that the Parliament assembled at Palermo should adapt the Constitution of 1812 to the present times. But the first convocation of this Parliament gives rise to some difficulties.

In the first place with respect to the temporal Peerage, it is to be observed that not a few of the Peers named in the note annexed to the Parliamentary Act of 1812 either no longer exist, from failure of succession and from transfers of property upon which the Peerage depended, or because those who would now represent the ancient Peers are neither in a position nor in circumstances necessary to support that high dignity.

In the second place it must be borne in mind with respect to the Spiritual Peers, that the greater part of the present Bishops of Sicily are Neapolitans, which would alone suffice for their exclusion from the Chamber, but it ought besides to be considered that the election of these Bishops took place under the influence of the abhorred confessor of the King, Monsignor Coele, and that they had gained the episcopal dignity by their attachment to those principles which are the very opposite of those to be sustained in the Chamber.

Passing then from the Peers to the Representatives, it will be admitted that the qualification established by the Constitution of 1812 for both eligible and electors, is no longer in consonance with private fortunes, owing to the distress of the times and the subdivision of property. It will therefore be necessary to introduce a proper reduction in the rating of both eligible and electors, and moreover to open the doors of the national

representation to such persons who although without the legal qualification, are allowed by modern civilization to share in it as intellectual capacities.

After what has taken place in the present revolution, the Sicilians intend that no alteration, however slight, shall be made in those Articles of the Constitution relating to the internal defence of the island by a force exclusively Sicilian; nor in the prohibition to the Executive Power to introduce into it any other army, even of Neapolitans, without the consent of Parliament; and this applies also to the navy.

As soon as the foregoing matters shall have been agreed upon and their execution has been guaranteed by Great Britain, the mediation of that Power might be employed in a negotiation between the King and a Commission of the General Committee of Palermo, as to the manner in which they shall all be carried into effect. It will however be requisite to proceed with expedition, as the General Committee neither can, ought, nor will delay the convocation of the Parliament; and should any measure be adopted which might subsequently prove irreconcilable with negotiation, a still further obstacle to them would thereby be encountered.

Nor must it be lost sight of that in restoring her Constitution to Sicily in the manner pointed out above, all expressions should be avoided implying the notion that it is a concession made by the King; indeed it must be stated explicitly that by force of the rights of Sicily, her Constitution is restored to her.

It is moreover necessary that the Sicilian flag should be the tricolor, as she will not consent to adopt any other; upon this point no compromise is possible. To refuse that flag would be to provoke a fresh revolution.

Finally, provision should be made that in the style assumed in the Royal Act restoring her Constitution to Sicily, the King should not be designated as "King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies," which would not be in opposition to the spirit of the Treaty of Vienna; nor is it to be presumed that the High Powers authors of that Treaty, which has already in so many instances been violated without provoking the most insignificant war, would attach any great importance to the maintenance of a grammatical pleonasm.

It is superfluous to add that the right of coining money would have to be restored to Sicily, a right which she possessed during so many ages, and which *de facto* but not *de jure* has only in later times been taken from her.

Inclosure 2 in No. 81.

Memorandum as to terms on which Lord Minto will consent to mediate in Sicily.

LORD MINTO will be empowered to promise an ordinance supplementary to that of the 10th of February, for the security and pacification of the Sicilian people, conceived in the following terms, or terms to this effect.

"Whereas we have graciously resolved to continue to our Sicilian subjects those parliamentary institutions conferred on them by our predecessors, with such modifications as the change of times and the peculiar circumstances of our dominions beyond the Straits render expedient; and whereas we have bestowed upon our dominions on this side of the Straits a Representative Constitution comprising two Legislative Chambers and embodying the most enlightened principles sanctioned by the experience of those nations which have adopted the Representative form of government, we hereby declare that the same be applicable to our dominions beyond the Straits under the conditions hereafter stated."

Sicily will have a separate legislature of two Chambers, endowed with all the rights and powers in respect to Sicily that the legislature of Naples enjoys with respect to Naples.

Those powers will embrace all questions relative to direct taxation and internal administration.

The constitution of the Upper House will be framed with particular regard to the wishes and traditions of the Sicilian people.

The qualification for voting in the election of deputies to the Lower House will be reduced to such a level as to give the latter an extensive and popular basis of election.

The qualification necessary for becoming a member of the Lower House will be moderate.

Questions of common interest to the legislatures of Sicily and Naples but falling within the exclusive jurisdiction of neither will be referred to a commission elected by the respective legislatures in equal number, which will assemble alternately in Sicily and Naples.

Those questions refer particularly to the military and naval force, the civil list, the diplomatic service, the tariff duties, &c.

Sicily will have a separate council of Ministers composed of Sicilians; and no preferment, civil or ecclesiastical, shall in future be conferred within the limits of one country on natives of the other.

In those branches of the public service which are common to both, a due number of Sicilians will be employed in proportion to the population of Sicily compared with that of Naples.

The National Guard of Sicily is an institution which will be regulated in future by the Sicilian legislature exclusively; it will be embodied in the first instance under the same law as that which is appointed in Naples. The commander-in-chief and all superior officers of the National Guard named by the King will be Sicilians.

The King will appoint as his Lord Lieutenant in Sicily a Prince of his Royal House.

Should circumstances render that impossible, he will appoint to that high office some distinguished person of Sicilian birth and agreeable to the Sicilian people.

Inclosure 3 in No. 81.

Memorandum by Lord Minto respecting the Mixed Commission.

February 13, 1848.

AFTER carefully considering the communications received to-day from Palermo I feel entirely convinced that without the concession of an equality in number of the members of the mixed commission of the legislature on each side, there is not the slightest prospect of coming to an agreement.

The whole question of Sicilian pacification appears to me to turn on this point, and if permitted to concede it in conjunction with the other conditions contained in the accompanying paper, I might proceed to Palermo with some prospect of success not otherwise to be hoped for.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 4 in No. 81.

Memorandum by Lord Minto regarding Military and Naval Force.

IT is to be understood that any questions regarding the military or naval force of this kingdom stand over to be considered by the mixed commission of the two legislatures.

(Signed) MINTO.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 23.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 14, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note which I have received from the Duke of Serra Capriola, in answer to my communication of the 9th instant inclosed to your Lordship in my despatch of the 10th instant.

I have not thought it desirable to return any reply to his Excellency, having succeeded in eliciting from the Neapolitan Government a declaration of the sense they attach to the word "Parlamento" in the 10th Article of the Statute of December 11, 1816.

It appears that the Neapolitan Government consider that the Constitution of 1812 was abrogated by the Treaty of Vienna, and that the parliamentary institutions indicated by the Law of 1816 are the ancient states of the kingdom. At the same time the Duke of Serra Capriola seems to insinuate that the Treaty of Vienna established an absolute incorporation and uniformity of political institutions in the dominions of Naples and Sicily, recognised by the new and equivocal title of the "Kingdom of the Two Sicilies." The logical inference from these premises would be that the ancient parliamentary rights of Sicily passed to the whole realm, and obtained a legitimate existence at Naples as well as at Palermo, but from this deduction the Neapolitan Government would certainly dissent.

I believe it can scarcely be doubted that the Constitution of 1812 never was modified or abolished by any legal act whatever, for it never ceased to exist by its own consent, but that it gradually sank into insignificance and apparent extinction under the cautious but at length successful usurpations of the Court and Government of Naples.

The convocation of the Parliament of 1812, in so far as the change of times renders such a measure possible, would in my opinion have been by far the most wise and prudent, as it undoubtedly was the only legal course open to His Sicilian Majesty. Unfortunately, at an early period in the late transactions, so strong a repugnance to that Constitution was expressed here that it is no longer to be hoped for; and the subsequent publication of a Representative Constitution applicable to both countries, in which it is impossible not to recognize a most enlightened spirit, renders it desirable that the Sicilians should embrace the latter with such modifications as seem most adapted to meet their condition and desires.

It is to this end that the exertions of the Earl of Minto are constantly directed, but his Lordship meets with great difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 82.

The Duke of Serra Capriola to Lord Napier.

Napoli, 11 febbrajo, 1848.

IL Sottoscritto, Ministro Segretario di Stato degli Affari Esteri, Presidente del Consiglio de' Ministri, ha ricevuto la nota che Lord Napier, Incaricato d'Affari di Sua Maestà la Regina della Gran Bretagna, gli diresse in data de 9 del corrente mese per rispondere alla sua del 3; ed in replica si crede egli nel dovere di richiamare la sua attenzione sulle seguente cose.

In forza di quanto venne sanzionato coll' Articolo 104 del Trattato del Congresso di Vienna del 9 Giugno, 1815, l'augusto Sovrano del Sottoscritto non può altramente essere considerato che come Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie, siccome il Sottoscritto lo ha sempre dichiarato al Signore Incaricato d'Affari. La concessione quindi d'una Guardia Nazionale contenuta tra quelle che Sua Maestà faceva a' suoi sudditi coll' Atto-sovrano de' 29 del

passato mese di Gennajo era comune alle due parti de' suoi Reali Dominj; e se una legge organica definitiva non trovavasi ancora sanzionata per la formazione della detta Guardia Nazionale, ciò non escludeva che una provvisoria se ne stabilisse in Sicilia per rimettervi l'ordine pubblico sulle stesse basi che quella già esistente in Napoli come lo stesso atto sovrano indica.

Non poteva nè anche mettersi in dubbio la portata dell' amnistia generale proclamata coll' Atto sovrano del 1° del corrente mese, quando si ponga mente alle epoche in cui accadevano i fatti a cui la stessa si riferisce, ed alla volontà sovrana solennemente proclamata in quel Real decreto, di estenderla fino all' epoca della sua pubblicazione, lo che intendevasi per la Sicilia fino al giorno in cui sarebbe stato fatto colà di ragion pubblica.

Se il desiderio di Lord Napier sopra questi due assunti, già sanzionati, fosse stato nella citata sua nota più esplicitamente espresso al Sottoscritto, e non confuso con altre proposizioni che il Re non poteva ammettere, il Governo di Sua Maestà non può dubitarsene, si sarebbe dato tutto la premura di secondarlo, perchè conforme alle benefiche intenzioni della Maestà Sua sempre dirette al ristabilimento della calma e dell' ordine pubblico in tutti i suoi Reali dominj, come lo comprova irrefragabilmente l'Articolo 31 della già proclamata Costituzione del regno.

Interloquendo poi il Sottoscritto sulla interpretazione che Lord Napier vuol dar all' Articolo 104 del Trattato di Vienna, non può dispensarsi di farle osservare che la stessa sarebbe contraria alla lettera ed allo spirito del medesimo.

Le Potenze segnatrici di quel solenne Trattato, col quale si rimontava il diritto pubblico in Europa, nel garantire a Sua Maestà per se, suoi eredi e successori la sovranità delle Due Sicilie, lo riconobbero come Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie, e sostituirono questo nuovo titolo a quello di Re delle Due Sicilie che prima assumeva, collo scopo di allontanare ogni possibilità che de' suoi Stati potessero formarsi due reami distinti, ed ovviare al germe di separazione ch' esisteva nella Costituzione di Sicilia, che faceva di quella parte de' Reali Dominj un regno separato.

Partendo da questo principio, si comprenderà pure facilmente che se in qualche Atto sovrano dopo il 1815 è stata fatta menzione di Parlamento in Sicilia, non può altrimente intendersi che di quelli di antica forma, i quali venivano convocati in ogni quadriennio colla sola facoltà di esaminare gli esiti e gli introiti dello Stato e di provvederne a' bisogni con novelle imposizione, e sotto questo aspetto deve essere considerato l'Atto sovrano degli 11 Dicembre, 1816, che cita nella sua nota il Signore Incaricato d'Affari, e giammai essere riportato al regime del 1812, che per le sopraesposte ragioni non aveva più vita.

Il Sottoscritto dopo avere partitamente risposto a tutto ciò che Lord Napier ha rilevato nella citata sua nota, si compiace a farle rimarcare che il Rè suo Signore non ha giammai perduto e non perde di vista la felicità, la prosperità ed il benessere di tutti i suoi sudditi, e che una luminosa convicentissima prova ne ha dato la Maestà Sua a tutta l'Europa con la Costituzione sanzionata e solennemente proclamata in tutto il suo regno con l'Atto sovrano del 10 corrente mese di febbrajo.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Firmato)

DUCA DI SERRA CAPRIOLA.

(Translation.)

Naples, February 11, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has received the note of the 9th current addressed to him by Lord Napier, &c., in answer to his own of the 5th, and in reply finds it his duty to call his attention to the following points.

In accordance with the 104th Article of the Congress of Vienna of June 9, 1815, the August Sovereign of the Undersigned cannot be considered in any other light than as King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, as the Undersigned has always declared to the Chargé d'Affaires.

The concession therefore of a National Guard which was included amongst those which the King afforded to his subjects by the Royal Decree of the 29th ultimo, was common to both parts of the kingdom; and if a special organic law has not yet been sanctioned for the formation of the same, that did not preclude the establishment of a provisional one in Sicily for the restoration of public tranquillity upon the same system as that already established at Naples as the said sovereign decree declares.

Neither could there be any doubt as to the sense of the general amnesty proclaimed by the Royal Decree of the 1st current, when the epochs are remembered in which the facts therein alluded to took place, nor as to the King's intention solemnly proclaimed in that Royal decree of extending its effects up to the moment of its publication, by which was meant, as regards Sicily, up to the day in which it should be made known.

If the wish of Lord Napier upon these two points already sanctioned by the King had been more clearly explained to the Undersigned in his above-mentioned note and not mixed up with propositions which the King could not admit of, His Majesty's Government would no doubt have been anxious to follow out his views as conformable to the benevolent wishes of the King, which always tend to the re-establishment of calm and public tranquillity in all his Royal dominions, and which the 31st Article of the already proclaimed Constitution of the kingdom proves.

In treating also of the interpretation which Lord Napier wishes to put upon the 104th Article of the Congress of Vienna, the Undersigned cannot help observing that such interpretation is not only contrary to the letter but also to the spirit of it.

The Powers who signed that solemn Treaty, the object of which was to re-establish the public equilibrium of Europe, in guaranteeing to the King and his heirs and successors the sovereignty of the Two Sicilies, recognised him as King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and substituted this title for that of King of the Two Sicilies which he formerly assumed, with the view of preventing the possibility of his States forming two separate kingdoms, and of doing away with the germ of separation existing in the Constitution of Sicily which made that part of the Royal dominions a separate State.

This being admitted it will be easily understood also that if in some Royal decree after the year 1815, mention has been made of the Parliament of Sicily, it cannot be interpreted otherwise than as referring to that Parliament as it was anciently constituted, and which was convoked once in four years with the sole power of examining the expenses and revenues of the State and imposing new taxes to meet the public necessities, which is the meaning that must be given to the sovereign Decree of December 11, 1816, to which the *Chargé d'Affaires* alludes in his above-mentioned note, and in nowise can it be supposed to the system of 1812, which for the above-mentioned reasons had been already annulled.

The Undersigned having answered in detail the observations made by Lord Napier in his above-mentioned note, begs him to remark that the King his master has never lost sight of the happiness, prosperity, and well-being of all his subjects, a clear and convincing proof of which His Majesty has given to all Europe by the Constitution which was sanctioned and proclaimed to all his kingdom by the sovereign Decree of the 10th February.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

DUKE OF SERRA CAPRIOLA.

No. 83.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 23.)

(Extract.)

Naples, February 15, 1848.

THE Count de Bussières, Ambassador of France, arrived yesterday morning.

No. 84.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 23.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 15, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship of the 12th instant, I have the honour to state to your Lordship that after repeated discussions with the Ministers of the Interior and Foreign Affairs, and with M. Scovazzo, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, who is a Sicilian and a man of sound abilities, the Neapolitan Council have been induced to give their serious attention to the affairs of Sicily.

The Earl of Minto having placed in the hands of his Excellency M. Bozzelli, a paper containing certain conditions on which he is prepared to undertake a mediation with the Provisional Government at Palermo, the Neapolitan Council of State are at this moment united with a firm determination not to separate until they have arrived at some definitive solution.

Should the terms suggested by the Earl of Minto be frankly adopted, there is much hope that his Lordship's presence at Palermo will have the effect of restoring that nation to an allegiance which they are on the verge of rejecting.

Should the Neapolitan Council unfortunately resolve on a different course, the Sicilians will unquestionably assemble their own Parliament and proceed to extremities which might involve contingencies of a character most injurious to the peace and prospects of Italy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 85.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 23.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 15, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copies of two letters which I addressed on the 12th instant to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo and to the Earl of Mount Edgumbe upon the subject of the concessions which the King proposes to make to his Sicilian subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

The Earl of Minto to the Earl of Mount Edgumbe.

My dear Lord Mount Edgumbe,

Naples, February 12, 1848.

THE inclosed copy of my letter to the Consul will explain to you how matters stand here.

The King has pressed me to go over to Palermo and endeavour to come to an arrangement for him with the Sicilians, which for the sake of peace I have consented to do.

I think it highly desirable that the explanations given in my letter to the Consul should be communicated at Messina and elsewhere.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

The Earl of Minto to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Naples, February 12, 1848.

I SEND over the "Porcupine" to convey to you the inclosed proclamation establishing a Constitution for the Two Sicilies, which was published here last night.

As this decree appears to provide only for an united Parliament, and to be in other respects inconsistent with the assurances contained in my letter to yourself and to Lord Mount Edgecumbe, I lost no time in addressing myself to the Government on the subject and have received a satisfactory explanation of their intentions. Under the reservation of Sicily contained in the 57th Article this decree is at present to be considered as applicable only to Naples, so far as regards the establishment of the Parliament. It is intended, as I formerly stated, that a separate Parliament should be established in Sicily; and there is every disposition to consult the wishes of the country on any points connected with the organic constitution of the two Chambers.

I have also received the renewed assurance that reference shall be made to the ancient rights of Sicily and to the Constitution of 1812, in the preamble of any decree for the creation of the Sicilian Parliament.

I trust that this explanation will remove the unfavourable impression which the bare publication of last night's proclamation was calculated to produce.

I have only further to add that the General Committee having expressed a desire for my mediation, His Majesty has to-day on his part expressed his wish that I should undertake this duty, which I am ready to do if it should appear to the General Committee that an accommodation may be effected on the basis that I have described; and in this case I shall be prepared to embark for Palermo at the shortest notice.

I have to request that you will communicate this letter to the General Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 85.

Scheme for a Representative Constitution for Naples.

Ferdinando II, &c.

VISTO l'Atto Sovrano del 29 di Gennaio, 1848, col quale aderendo al voto unanime de' nostri amatissimi popoli, abbiamo di nostra piena, libera e spontanea volontà promesso di stabilire in questo reame una Costituzione corrispondente alla civiltà de' tempi, additandone in pochi e rapidi cenni le basi fondamentali, e riserbando di sanzionarla capressa e coordinata ne' suoi principii sul progetto che le ne presenterebbe fra dieci giorni l'attuale nostro Ministero di Stato;

Volendo mandar subito ad effetto questa ferma deliberazione del nostro animo:

Nel nome temuto dell' Onnipotente Santissimo Iddio, Uno e Trino, cui solo è dato di leggere nel profondo de' cuori, e che noi altamente invociamo a giudice della purità delle nostre intenzioni, e della franca lealtà onde siamo deliberati di entrare in queste novelle vie di ordine politico;

Udito con maturo esame il nostro Consiglio di Stato;

Abbiamo risoluto di proclamare e proclamiamo irrevocabilmente da noi sanzionata la seguente Costituzione:

Disposizioni Generali.

I. Il Reame delle Due Sicilie verrà d'oggi innanzi retto da temperata monarchia ereditaria costituzionale sotto forme Rappresentative.

II. La circoscrizione territoriale del reame rimane quale trovasi attualmente stabilita; e non potrà in seguito apportarvisi alcun cangiamento se non in forza di una legge.

III. L'unica religione dello Stato sarà sempre la Cristiana Cattolica Apostolica Romana, senza che possa mai esser permesso l'esercizio di alcun' altra religione.

IV. Il potere legislativo risiede complessivamente nel Rè, ed in un Parlamento Nazionale composto di due Camere, l'una di Pari, l'altra di Deputati.

V. Il potere esecutivo appartiene esclusivamente al Rè.

VI. L'iniziativa per la proposizione delle leggi si appartiene indistintamente al Rè ed a ciascuna delle due Camere legislative.

VII. La interpretazione delle leggi, in via di regola generale, si appartiene unicamente al potere legislativo.

VIII. La Costituzione garantisce la piena indipendenza dell' ordine giudiziario per l'applicazione delle leggi a' casi occorrenti.

IX. Apposite leggi, oltre alla libera elezione da parte de' rispettivi abitanti per le diverse cariche comunali, assicureranno alle comuni ed alle provincie, per la loro amministrazione interna, la più larga libertà compatibile con la conservazione de' loro patrimonii.

X. Non possono ammettersi truppe straniere al servizio dello Stato, se non in forza di una legge. Le convenzioni esistenti saranno però sempre rispettate. Nè senza una esplicita legge può permettersi a truppe straniere di occupare o di attraversare il territorio del reame, salvo il solo passaggio delle truppe Pontificie da quegli Stati a Benevento e Pontecorvo, secondo i modi stabiliti dalla consuetudine.

XI. I militari di ogni arma non possono esser privati de'loro gradi, onori e pensioni, se non ne' soli modi prescritti dalle leggi e regolamenti.

XII. In tutto il reame vi sarà una guardia nazionale, la cui formazione organica sarà determinata da una legge.

In questa legge non potrà mai derogarsi al principio che nella guardia nazionale i diversi gradi, sino a quello di capitano, verranno conferiti per elezione da coloro stessi che la compongono.

XIII. Il debito pubblico è riconosciuto e garantito.

XIV. Niuna specie d'imposizione può essere stabilita se non in forza di una legge, non escluse imposizioni comunali.

XV. Non possono accordarsi franchigie in materia d'imposizioni, se non in forza di una legge.

XVI. Le imposizioni dirette si votano annualmente dalle Camere legislative.

Le imposizioni indirette possono avere la durata di più anni.

XVII. Le Camere legislative votano in ogni anno lo stato discusso, ed acclamarono i conti che vi si riferiscono.

XVIII. La Gran Corte de' Conti rimane collegio costituito, salvo alle Camere legislative il poterne modificare in forza di una legge le ordinarie attribuzioni.

XIX. Le proprietà dello Stato non possono altrimenti alienarsi che in forza di una legge.

XX. Il dritto di petizione si appartiene indistintamente a tutti. Ma le petizioni alle Camere legislative non possono farsi che in iscritto, senza che ad alcuno sia permesso di presentarne in persona.

XXI. La qualità di cittadino si acquista e si perde in conformità delle leggi. Gli stranieri non possono esservi naturalizzati che in forza di una legge.

XXII. I cittadini sono tutti eguali in faccia alla legge, qualunque ne sia lo stato e la condizione.

XXIII. La capacità di esser chiamato a cariche pubbliche si appartiene indistintamente a tutt' i cittadini senza altro titolo che quello del loro merito personale.

XXIV. La libertà individuale è garantita. Niuno può essere arrestato se non in forza di un atto emanato in conformità delle leggi dall'autorità competente, eccetto il caso di flagranza o quasi flagranza.

Il caso di arresto per misura di prevenzione, l'imputato dovrà consegnarsi all'autorità competente fra lo spazio improrogabile delle ventiquattro ore, e manifestarsi al medesimo i motivi del suo arresto.

XXV. Niuno può essere tradotto suo malgrado innanzi ad un giudice diverso da quello che la legge determina: nè altre pene possono essere applicate a' colpevoli, se non quelle stabilite dalle leggi.

XXVI. La proprietà de' cittadini è inviolabile. Il pieno esercizio non può esserne ristretto se non da una legge per ragioni di pubblico interesse. Niuno può essere astretto a cederla se non per cagione di utilità pubblica riconosciuta, e previa sempre la indennità corrispondente a norma delle leggi.

XXVII. La proprietà letteraria è del pari garantita ed inviolabile.

XXVIII. Il domicilio de' cittadini è inviolabile, salvo il caso in cui la stessa legge autorizzi le visite domiciliari, le quali non possono allora praticarsi che ne' modi prescritta dalla legge medesima.

XXIX. Il segreto delle lettere è inviolabile. La responsabilità degli agenti della posta, per la violazione del segreto delle lettere, sarà determinata da una legge.

XXX. La stampa sarà libera e solo soggetta ad una legge repressiva, da pubblicarsi per tutto ciò che può offendere la religione, la morale, l'ordine pubblico, il Rè, la Famiglia Reale, i Sovrani esteri e le loro famiglie, non che l'onore e l'interesse de' particolari.

Sulle stesse norme a garantire preventivamente la moralità de' pubblici spettacoli, verrà emanata una legge apposita; e sino a che questa non sarà sanzionata, si osserveranno su tale obbietto i regolamenti in vigore.

La stampa sarà soggetta a legge preventiva per le opere che riguardano materie di religione trattate ex professo.

XXXI. Il passato rimane coperto di un velo impenetrabile. Ogni condanna sinora proferita per politiche imputazioni è cancellata, ed on i procedimenti per avvenimenti successi sinora viene vietato.

CAPO I.—*Delle Camere Legislative.*

XXXII. Le Camere legislative non possono essere convocate che in pari tempo, e chiudono in pari tempo le loro sessioni; salvo unicamente alla Camera de' Pari il potersi riunire, quando bisogna, come alta Corte di Giustizia nei casi preveduti dalla Costituzione.

XXXIII. In ciascuna delle due Camere non può aprirsi la discussione, se non quando il numero de' suoi componenti si trovi raccolto a pluralità assoluta.

XXXIV. Le discussioni delle Camere legislative sono pubbliche, eccetto il caso in cui ciascuna di esse, sulla proposizione del Presidente, reclamata e sostenuta da dieci dei suoi componenti, risolva di adunarsi in comitato segreto.

XXXV. Nelle Camere legislative i partiti si adottano a pluralità de' voti. La votazione sarà pubblica.

XXXVI. Chi fa parte di una delle Camere legislative non può entrare a far parte dell'altra.

XXXVII. Si appartiene a ciascuna delle due Camere il verificare i poteri di coloro che la compongono, e decidere delle controversie che possono insorgere sull'oggetto.

XXXVIII. I Ministri Segretarii di Stato possono presentare indistintamente i progetti di legge di cui sono incaricati, tanto all'una quanto all'altra delle due Camere legislative. Ma i progetti di legge che intendono a stabilire contribuzioni di ogni specie, o che si riferiscono alla formazione degli stati discussi, debbono prima essere necessariamente presentati alla Camera de' Deputati.

XXXIX. Un progetto di legge discusso e votato in una Camera non può essere inviato alla sanzione del Rè, se non dopo essere stato discusso e votato uniformemente nell'altra.

XL. Ove tra le due Camere vi sia dissidenza intorno al contenuto di un progetto di legge qualunque, la discussione di questo non potrà riprondursi presso alcuna delle due Camere nella sessione di quel medesimo anno.

XLI. I componenti delle due Camere legislative sono inviolabili per le opinioni e i voti da essi profferiti nello esercizio delle loro alte funzioni. Non possono essere arrestati per debiti durante il periodo della sessione legislativa e in tutto il corso del mese che la precede o che la siegue. Ne' giudizi penali che s'intentassero contro di essi, non possono essere arrestati senza l'autorizzazione della Camera a cui appartengono, salvo il caso di flagrante o quasi flagrante reato.

XLII. Ciascuna delle due Camere legislative formerà il suo regolamento, in cui vorrà determinato il modo e l'ordine delle sue discussioni e delle sue votazioni, il numero e gl' incarichi delle commissioni ordinarie in cui deve distribuirsi, e tutto ciò che concerne la economia del suo servizio interno.

CAPO II.—*Camera de' Pari.*

XLIII. I Pari sono eletti a vita dal Rè, il quale nomina fra i Pari medesimi il Presidente ed il Vice-Presidente della Camera, per quel tempo che giudica opportuno.

XLIV. Il numero de' Pari è illimitato.

XLV. Per essere Pari si richiede aver la qualità di cittadino e l'età compiuta di trenta anni.

XLVI. I Principi del sangue sono Pari di dritto, e prendono posto immediatamente appresso il Presidente. Essi possono entrare nella Camera all'età di anni venticinque, ma non dare voto che all'età compiuta di trent'anni.

XLVII. Sono eleggibili alla dignità di Pari:

1. Tutti coloro che hanno una rendita imponibile di ducati tremila, posseduta da otto anni;

2. I Ministri Segretarii di Stato e i Consiglieri di Stato;

3. Gli Ambasciatori che abbiano esercitato per tre anni e i Ministri Plenipotenziarii che abbiano esercitato per sei anni, le loro diplomatiche funzioni;

4. Gli Arcivescovi e i Vescovi non più del numero dieci;

5. I Tenenti-Generali, i Vice-Ammiragli, i Marescialli di campo ed i Retro-Ammiragli;

6. Coloro che per cinque anni abbiano esercitato la carica di Presidente nella Camera de' Deputati;

7. Il Presidente ed il Procurator-Generale della Corte Suprema di Giustizia, ed il Presidente ed il Procuratore-Generale della Gran Corte de' Conti;

8. I Vice-Presidenti ed Avvocati-Generali della Suprema Corte di Giustizia e della Gran Corte de' Conti, che abbiano esercitate queste cariche per tre anni;

9. I Presidenti e Procuratori-Generali delle Gran Corti Civili che abbiano esercitate quelle cariche per quattro anni;

10. Il Presidente-Generale della Società Borbonica;

11. I Presidenti delle tre accademie di cui si compone la Società Borbonica, che abbiano esercitato per quattro anni quelle cariche.

XLVIII. La Camera de' Pari si costituisce in alta Corte di Giustizia per conoscere de' reati di alto tradimento e di attentato alla sicurezza dello Stato, di cui possano essere imputati i componenti di ambedue le Camere legislative.

CAPO III.—*Della Camera de' Deputati.*

XLIX. La Camera de' Deputati si compone di tutti coloro, i quali, eletti alla pluralità de' suffragi, ne ricevono il legittimo mandato dagli elettori corrispondenti.

L. I Deputati rappresentano la nazione in complesso, e non le provincie ove furono eletti.

LI. La durata della Camera de' Deputati è di anni cinque: in conseguenza il mandato di cui si parla nell' Articolo precedente spirà col decorso di questo solo periodo di tempo.

LII. Coloro pe' quali cessa il suddetto mandato dopo i cinque anni possono essere immediatamente rieletti all convocazione delle Camere successive.

LIII. Il numero de' Deputati corrisponderà sempre alla forza della intera popolazione, pel computo della quale si adoperà l'ultimo censimento che precede la elezione.

LIV. Per ogni complesso di quarantamila anime vi sarà un Deputato alla Camera.

Il modo di assicurare per quanto sia possibile la rappresentanza, dove nelle circoscrizioni all'obbietto siavi eccesso o difetto di popolazione, sarà determinato dalla legge elettorale.

LV. Per essere tanto elettore quanto eleggibile si richiede aver la qualità di cittadino e la età compiuta di venticinque anni; e non trovarsi nè in istato di fallimento, nè sottoposto ad alcun giudizio criminale.

LVI. Sono elettori:

1. Tutti coloro i quali posseggono una rendita imponibile, di cui sarà determinata la quantità dalla legge elettorale;

2. I membri ordinarii delle tre Reali Accademie di cui si compone la Società Borbonica, ed i membri ordinarii delle altre Reali Accademie;

3. I cattedratici titolari nella Regia Università degli studii, e ne' pubblici Licei autorizzati dalle leggi;

4. I professori laureati della Regia Università degli studii ne' diversi rami delle scienze, delle lettere, e delle belle arti.

5. I decurioni, i sindaci e gli aggiunti delle comuni. che trovansi nell' effettivo esercizio delle loro funzioni;

6. I pubblici funzionarii giubilati con pensione di ritiro di annui ducati cento venti, e i militari di ogni arma, dal grado d'uffiziale in sopra, i quali godono anch' essi di una pensione di ritiro.

LVII. Sono eligibili:

1. Tutti coloro i quali posseggono una rendita imponibile, di cui sarà determinata la quantità dalla legge elettorale;

2. I membri ordinarii delle tre Reali Accademie di cui si compone la Società Borbonica, i cattedratici titolari della Regia Università degli studii, ed i membri ordinarii delle altre Reali Accademie.

LVIII. I pubblici funzionarii, purchè siano inamovibili, gli ecclesiastici secolari, purchè non appartengano a congregazioni organizzate sotto forme regolari e monastiche, ed i militari possono essere così elettori come eleggibili, quando in essi concorrano le condizioni espresse ne' tre Articoli precedenti.

LIX. Gli Intendenti, i segretarii-generalì d'Intendenza ed i sott' intendenti in esercizio delle loro funzioni, non possono essere nè mai elettori, nè mai eligibili.

LX. Coloro fra i Deputati eletti che accettano dal potere esecutivo, sia un novello impiego, sia una promozione da un impiego di cui erano già rivestiti, non possono più far parte della Camera, se non dopo essersi sottoposti al cimento della rielezione.

LXI. La Camera de' Deputati sceglie da se ogni anno fra i suoi componenti medesimi, ed a suffragi segreti il Presidente, il Vice-Presidente ed i Segretarii.

LXII. Per la prima convocazione delle Camere legislative sarà pubblicata una legge elettorale provvisoria, la quale non diverrà definitiva se non dopo essere stata esaminata e discussa dalle Camere medesime nel primo periodo dalla loro legislatura.

CAPITOLO IV.—*Del Rè.*

LXIII. Il Rè è il capo supremo dello Stato; la sua persona è sacra ed inviolabile, non soggetta ad alcuna specie di responsabilità.

Egli comanda le forze di terra e di mare, e ne dispone; nomina a tutti gl'impieghi di amministrazione pubblica, e conferisce titoli, decorazioni ed onorificenze di ogni specie.

Fa grazia ai condannati, rimettendo o commutando le pene.

Provvede a sostenere la integrità del reame: dichiara la guerra o conchiude la pace.

Negozia i trattati di alleanza e di commercio, e ne chiede la adesione alle Camere legislative prima di ratificarli.

Esercita la Legazia Apostolica e tutti i dritti del Real padronato della Corona.

LXIV. Il Rè convoca ogni anno in sessione ordinaria le Camere legislative: ne' casi d'urgenza, le convoca in sessione straordinaria; ed a lui solo è dato di prorogarle e di chiuderle.

Egli può anche sciogliere la Camera de' Deputati, ma convocandone un'altra per nuove elezioni tra lo spazio improrogabile di tre mesi.

LXV. Al Rè si appartiene la sanzione delle leggi votate dalle due Camere. Una legge a cui la sanzione reale sia negata non può richiamarsi ad esame nella sessione di quel medesimo anno.

LXVI. Il Rè fa coniare la moneta, ponendovi la sua effigie.

Pubblica i necessari decreti e regolamenti per la esecuzione delle leggi, senza poter mai nè sospenderle, nè dispensare alcuno dall'osservarle.

LXVII. Il Rè può sciogliere talune parti della Guardia Nazionale, dando però al tempo stesso le necessarie disposizioni per ricomporle e riordinarle fra lo spazio improrogabile di un anno.

LXVIII. La lista civile è determinata da una legge per la durata di ciascun regno.

LXIX. Alla morte del Rè, se l'erede della corona è di età maggiore saranno da lui convocate le Camere legislative fra lo spazio di un mese, per giurare alla di loro presenza di mantenere sempre integra ed inviolata la costituzione della monarchia.

Se l'erede della corona è di età minore, e non si trovi preventivamente provveduto dal Rè in quando alla reggenza ed alla tutela, allora le Camere legislative saranno convocate tra dieci giorni da' Ministri, sotto la loro speciale responsabilità per provvedervi. Ed in questo caso faranno parte della reggenza, la madre e tutrice, e due o più Principi della Famiglia Reale.

Lo stesso verrà praticato, laddove il Rè sventuratamente si trovi nella impossibilità di regnare per cagioni fisiche.

LXX. L'atto solenne per l'ordine di successione alla Corona dell' Augusto Re Carlo III del 6 di Ottobre, 1759, confermato dall' Augusto Re Ferdinando I, nell' Articolo 5 della Legge degli 8 Dicembre, 1816, gli atti Sovrani del 7 di Aprile, 1829, del 12 di Marzo, 1836, e tutti gli atti relativa alla Real Famiglia rimangono in pieno vigore.

CAP. V. — De' Ministri.

LXXI. I Ministri sono responsabili.

LXXII. Gli atti di ogni genere sottoscritti dal Rè non hanno vigore, se non contrassegnati da un Ministro Segretario di Stato, il quale perciò solo se ne rende responsabile.

LXXIII. I Ministri hanno libero ingresso nelle Camere legislative, e vi debbono essere intesi quando lo domandano: non però vi hanno voto, se non allora che ne fanno parte come Pari o como Deputati.

Le Camere possono chiedere la presenza de' Ministri nelle discussioni.

LXXIV. La sola Camera de' Deputati ha il diritto di mettere in istato di accusa i Ministri per gli atti, di cui questi sono responsabili.

La Camera de' Pari ha esclusivamente la giurisdizione di giudicarle.

LXXV. Una legge apposita determinerà partitamente i casi ne' quali si verifica la responsabilità de' Ministri, i modi con cui deve procedere il giudizio contro di essi, e le pene da indigersi loro, laddove risultino colpevoli.

LXXI. Il Rè non può far grazia a' Ministri condannati, se non sulla esplicita domanda di una delle due Camere legislative.

CAPO VI.—*Del Consiglio di Stato.*

LXXVII. Vi sarà un Consiglio di Stato da non eccedere il numero di ventiquattro individui che siano cittadini col pieno esercizio de' loro diritti. Gli stranieri ne verranno esclusi, benchè abbiano decreto di cittadinanza.

LXXVIII. Il Consiglio di Stato è preseduto dal Ministro Segretario di Stato di Grazia e Giustizia.

LXXIX. Il Rè nomina i Consiglieri di Stato.

LXXX. Il Consiglio di Stato è istituito per dare il suo ragionato avviso su tutti gli affari de' quali potrà essergli delegato l'esame in nome del Rè, da' Ministri Segretarii di Stato. Una legge sarà emanata per determinare le attribuzioni; e fino a che questa non sarà pubblicata, rimarrà in vigore pel Consiglio di Stato quanto trovasi stabilito nelle leggi in vigore per la Consulta Generale del regno, salvo quel che in esse potrà esservi di contrario alla presente costituzione.

CAPO VII.—*Dell' Ordine Giudiziario.*

LXXXI. La giustizia emana dal Rè, ed in nome del Rè vien retribuita da' tribunali a ciò delegati.

LXXXII. Niuna giurisdizione contenziosa può essere stabilita se non in forza di una legge.

LXXXIII. Non potranno mai crearsi de' tribunali straordinarii sotto qualunque denominazione. Con ciò non s'intende derogare allo Statuto Penale Militare e regolamenti in vigore tanto per l'esercito di terra come per l'armata di mare.

LXXXIV. Le udienze de' tribunali sono pubbliche. Quando un tribunale crede che la pubblicità possa offendere i buoni costumi, deve dichiararlo in apposita sentenza; e questa debbe essere profferita alla unanimità in materia di reati politici e di abusi di stampa.

LXXXV. Nell'ordine giudiziario i magistrati saranno inamovibili; non cominceranno però ad esserlo se non dopo che vi sieno stati istituiti con una nuova sotto l'impero della Costituzione, e che già si trovino di avere esercitato per tre anni continui le funzioni di magistrato.

LXXXVI. Gli agenti del Pubblico Ministero presso le Corti e i tribunali sono essenzialmente amovibili.

CAPO VIII.—*Disposizioni Transitorie.*

LXXXVII. Talune parti di questa Costituzione potranno essere modificate pe' nostri domini di là dal Faro, secondo i bisogni e le condizioni particolari di quelle popolazioni.

LXXXVIII. Lo stato discusso del 1847 resterà in vigore per tutto l'anno 1848, e con esso rimarranno provvisoriamente in vigore le antiche facoltà del Governo, per provvedere con espedienti straordinarii a' complicati ed urgentissimi bisogni dello Stato.

Clausola Derogatoria.

LXXXIX. Tutte le leggi, decreti, i rescritti in vigore rimangono abrogati in quelle parti che sono in opposizione alla presente Costituzione.

Vogliamo e comandiamo che la presente Costituzione politica della Monarchia da noi liberamente sottoscritta, riconosciuta dal nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato di Grazia e Giustizia, munita del nostro gran sigillo, contrassegnata da tutt' i nostri Ministri Segretarii di Stato, registrata e depositata nell' archivio del Ministero e Segreteria di Stato della Presidenza del Consiglio de' Ministri, si pubblichi con le ordinarie solennità per tutt' i nostri reali domini per mezzo delle corrispondenti autorità, le quali dovranno prenderne particolare registro ed assicurarne il pienissimo adempimento.

Il nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato degli Affari Esteri, Presidente del nostro Consiglio de' Ministri, è particolarmente incaricato di vegliare alla sua pronta pubblicazione.

Napoli, il dì 10 di febbrajo, 1848.

(Firmato)

FERDINANDO.

Il Ministro, &c.

Duca di Serra Capriola.
Barone Cesidio Bonanni.
Princ. Dentice.
Principe di Torella.
Commendatore Gaetano Seovazzo.
Cav. Francesco Paola Bozzelli.
Giuseppe Garzia.

(Translation.)

Ferdinand II, &c.

ACCORDING to the royal declaration of the 29th of January, 1848, by which, in adhering to the unanimous vote of our most beloved people, we had, of our full, free, and spontaneous will, promised to give to this kingdom a Constitution correspondent to the civilization of the times, pointing out shortly and rapidly the fundamental bases of the same, and reserving to ourselves to expressly and co-ordinately sanction it in its principles, according to a project to be presented to us within ten days, by our actual Minister of State;

Wishing immediately to carry into effect this decided deliberation of our mind;

In the dreaded name of the Omnipotent Holy God, One and Three, to whom alone it appertains to penetrate into the depth of hearts, and whom we loudly invoke as judge of the purity of these our intentions, and of the frank sincerity with which we have resolved to enter upon this new political system;

Having heard, with mature examination, our Council of State;

We have resolved to proclaim and do proclaim the following Constitution irrevocably sanctioned by us:—

General Dispositions.

I. The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies will be from henceforth governed by a temperate hereditary constitutional monarchy under Representative forms.

II. The territorial limits of the kingdom remain as they are actually established; and no further changes can be made unless enacted by a law.

III. The sole religion of the State shall always be the Christian Catholic Apostolic Roman, without any other religion being allowed to be exercised.

IV. The Legislative power is vested co-ordinately in the King and National Parliament, composed of two Chambers, one of Peers and the other of Deputies.

V. The Executive power belongs exclusively to the King.

VI. The initiative for the proposition of laws appertains without distinction to the King and to each of the two legislative Chambers.

VII. The interpretation of the laws, as far as regards general regulations, belongs solely to the legislative power.

VIII. The Constitution guarantees the full independence of the judiciary order for the application of the laws to the cases which may occur.

IX. Proper laws, in addition to the free election on the part of the respective inhabitants to the communal employments, will ensure to the

communes and to the provinces their internal administration, and the greatest liberty compatible with the conservation of their patrimonies.

X. No foreign troops can be admitted into the service of the State, unless in pursuance of a law. Existing conventions, however, shall always be respected. Nor, without an express law, may foreign troops be allowed to occupy or pass through the territory of the kingdom, excepting the simple passage of the Pontifical troops from those States to Benevento and Pontecorvo, according to the mode established by custom.

XI. The military of every branch cannot be deprived of their rank, honour, or pensions, unless by the means prescribed by the laws and regulations.

XII. Throughout the whole kingdom there shall be a national guard, whose organic formation shall be fixed upon by a law. In this law, the principle shall never be departed from, that in the national guard the different ranks, up to that of captain, shall be conferred by election by those who compose it.

XIII. The national debt is recognised and guaranteed.

XIV. No species of taxation can be enforced unless in virtue of a law, not excluding the communal taxes.

XV. No exemptions to be allowed as far as regards taxation, unless in virtue of a law.

XVI. The direct taxes are voted annually by the legislative Chambers. The indirect taxes may have a duration of several years.

XVII. The legislative Chambers will vote the budget annually, and audit the accounts referred to them.

XVIII. The Grand Court of Accounts to remain as a constituted tribunal, with the reservation to the legislative Chambers of modifying, by a law the ordinary attributes.

XIX. The property of the State cannot be alienated otherwise than by a law.

XX. The right of petitioning belongs without distinction to every body; but petitions to the legislative Chambers will only be allowed in writing, without any person being permitted to present them personally.

XXI. The condition of a citizen is acquired and lost conformably to the laws. Foreigners cannot be naturalized but in virtue of a law.

XXII. Every citizen is equal before the law, whatever be his state or condition.

XXIII. The right of being appointed to public situations belongs without distinction to every citizen, without any other title than that of personal merit.

XXIV. Individual liberty is guaranteed. No person can be arrested unless by an act emanating conformably to the laws from the competent authority, excepting in cases of flagrant crime, or what may amount to it. In the case of arrest for measures of prevention, the party accused must be consigned to the competent authority within twenty-four hours, without fail, and the motives of his arrest must be declared to the same.

XXV. No person can be taken, against his will, before a judge different from the one fixed upon by law; nor any other punishments inflicted on the guilty than that established by the laws.

XXVI. The property of the citizens is inviolable. The full exercise can only be restrained by a law, on account of public interest. No person can be forced to cede it, unless on account of acknowledged public utility, and always subject to the previous correspondent indemnity according to the laws.

XXVII. Literary property is likewise guaranteed and inviolable.

XXVIII. The domicile of the citizens is inviolable, excepting in cases when the law authorizes domiciliary visits, which can only be made in the mode prescribed by the law itself.

XXIX. The secrecy of letters is inviolable. The responsibility of the agents of the post for the violation of the secrecy of letters, shall be determined by a law.

The press shall be free and simply subjected to a repressive law to be published for everything that may offend religion, morality, the public order, the King, the Royal Family, foreign Sovereigns and their families,

as well as the honour and interest of private individuals. Under the same regulations, in order previously to guarantee the morality of public spectacles, a law will be enacted for the purpose, and until it be sanctioned the regulations in vigour on this subject are to be observed. The press will be subjected to a preventive law for works regarding religious subjects undertaken *ex professo*.

XXXI. The past remains covered by an impenetrable veil. Every sentence pronounced up to the present time on account of political accusations is cancelled, and all proceedings for events that have taken place up to the present time are prohibited.

CHAPTER I.—Of the Legislative Chambers.

XXXII. The Legislative Chambers can only be convoked at the same time, and their sessions closed at the same period, with the sole exception that the Chamber of Peers may assemble, when necessary, as a High Court of Justice in cases provided for by the Constitution.

XXXIII. The debates in each of the two Chambers cannot be commenced excepting when the number of those present form an absolute majority.

XXXIV. The debates of the Legislative Chambers are public, excepting the case in which each of them, on the proposition of the President, called for and supported by ten of its members resolve to unite in secret committee.

XXXV. In the Legislative Chambers the resolutions are to be adopted by the plurality of votes. The voting to be public.

XXXVI. A member of one of the Legislative Chambers cannot enter and form part of the other.

XXXVII. To each of the two Chambers belongs the right of verifying the powers of those who compose it, and of deciding controversies that may arise on the subject.

XXXVIII. The Ministers Secretaries of State may without distinction present the projects of law entrusted to them in one as well as in the two Legislative Chambers. But the projects of law intended to establish taxes of all kinds, or which refer to the formation of the budgets, must necessarily be first presented to the Chamber of Deputies.

XXXIX. A project of law discussed and voted in one Chamber cannot be sent to the King for his sanction until after having been discussed and uniformly voted in the other.

XL. Should any dissension arise between the two Chambers respecting any project of law whatsoever, the discussion of this cannot be reproduced either in the one or other Chamber in the session of the same year.

XLI. The members of the two Chambers are inviolable for their opinions and the votes given by them in the exercise of their high functions. They cannot be arrested for debt during the period of the legislative session, nor during the month that precedes or follows it. In penal judgments that may be brought against them, they cannot be arrested without the authorization of the Chamber to which they belong, excepting in cases of flagrant crime, or what amounts to it.

XLII. Each of the two legislative Chambers will form its regulation, in which will be determined the mode and order of its discussions and votes, the distribution of the number and occupations of the ordinary committees, and everything that relates to the economy of its internal service.

CHAPTER II.—Chamber of Peers.

XLIII. The Peers are to be elected for life by the King, who will name from among the Peers themselves the President and Vice-President of the Chamber for such period as he may think proper.

XLIV. The number of Peers is unlimited.

XLV. To be a Peer it is necessary to have the quality of a citizen and the full age of thirty years.

XLVI. The Princes of the blood are Peers by right, and take their place immediately after the President. They can enter the Chamber at twenty-five years of age, but cannot vote until thirty years of age completed.

XLVII. Persons eligible to the dignity of Peers are—

1. All those who have a taxable income of 3000 ducats in their possession for eight years.

2. The Ministers Secretaries of State and Councillors of State.

3. Ambassadors who have exercised for three years, and Ministers Plenipotentiary who have exercised for six years, their diplomatic functions.

4. Archbishops and Bishops not exceeding ten in number.

5. Lieutenant-Generals, Vice-Admirals, Marechals de Camp, and Rear-Admirals.

6. Those who during five years have been President of the Chamber of Deputies.

7. The President and Attorney-General of the Supreme Court of Justice, and the President and Attorney-General of the Grand Court of Accounts.

8. Vice-Presidents and Solicitors-General of the Supreme Court of Justice and of the Grand Court of Accounts who have exercised their functions during three years.

9. The Presidents and Attorneys-General of the Grand Civil Court who have exercised their functions for four years.

10. The President-General of the Borbonic Society.

11. The Presidents of the three academies of which the Borbonic Society is composed who have exercised their functions for four years.

XLVIII. The Chamber of Peers will constitute itself into a High Court of Justice to take cognizance of crimes of high treason and attempts against the security of the State, of which the members of both legislative Assemblies may be accused.

CHAPTER III.—*Chamber of Deputies.*

XLIX. The Chamber of Deputies will be composed of all those who, elected by a plurality of votes, shall receive the legitimate mandate from the corresponding electors.

L. The Deputies represent the whole nation and not the provinces for which they were elected.

LI. The duration of the Chamber of Deputies will be for five years, consequently the mandate mentioned in the former Articles expires at the end of this sole period of time.

LII. Those whose mandate above-mentioned finishes after five years may immediately be re-elected at the convocation of the successive Chambers.

LIII. The number of Deputies shall correspond with the entire population, in the calculation of which shall be used the latest census preceding the election.

LIV. There shall be one Deputy to the Chamber for every forty thousand souls.

The mode of regulating as far as possible the representation, when there shall be according to the established regulations an excess or lack of population, shall be determined by the electoral law.

LV. To be voter or candidate, it shall be necessary to have the right of citizenship, the full age of 25 years, not to be in a state of insolvency, nor suffering under the imputation of having committed any crime.

LVI. The following shall have the right of voting:—

All those who possess a taxable revenue, the quantity to be determined by the electoral law.

The ordinary members of the three Royal Academies which compose the Società Borbonica, and the members of the other Royal Academies.

The professors holding chairs in the Royal University degli studi, and the professors of the public Lyceums authorized by law.

The laureate professors of the Royal University degli studii, in the different branches of science, letters, and fine arts.

Decurions, Syndics, and communal officers in the actual exercise of their functions.

The retired public functionaries who enjoy an annual pension of 120 ducats, and all military of the rank of officers who are in the enjoyment of a retiring pension.

LVII. The following may be elected :—

All those who possess a taxable revenue, the amount to be determined by an electoral law.

The ordinary members of the three Royal Academies which compose the Società Borbonica, and the members of the other Royal Academies, together with the professors holding chairs in the Royal University degli studii.

LVIII. The public immovable functionaries, secular ecclesiastics, who do not belong to congregations organized under regular monastic forms, and soldiers, may be both voters and candidates according to the conditions expressed in the three preceding Articles.

LIX. Intendants, Secretaries-General of Intendenza, and Sub-Intendants in the exercise of their functions, can neither vote nor be elected.

LX. Any Deputy who accepts from the Executive a new office, or a promotion from his previous office, cannot form part of the Chamber without undergoing a re-election.

LXI. The Chamber of Deputies shall choose each year, from amongst its members and by ballot, a President, Vice-President, and Secretaries.

LXII. For the first convocation of the Chambers shall be published a provisional electoral law, which shall not be definitive until it has been discussed and examined by the Chambers themselves during the first period of their legislative functions.

CHAPTER IV.—*Of the King.*

LXIII. The King is supreme head of the State. His person is sacred and inviolable, and not subject to any responsibility.

He is commander of the forces by land and sea, and can dispose of them ; he has the nomination of all the offices in the public administration ; confers titles, decorations, and honours of all kinds.

He can absolve the condemned, by remitting or commuting their punishments.

He provides for the maintenance of the integrity of the kingdom, declares war, and concludes peace.

He negotiates treaties, whether of alliance or commerce, and demands the concurrence of the Legislative Chambers before ratifying them.

He exercises the apostolic legation and all the rights belonging to the royal patronage of the Crown.

LXIV. The King convokes the Chambers every year in ordinary session, and in cases of urgency, convokes them for an extraordinary session, and he alone has the power to prorogue or dissolve them.

He can also dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, but is obliged to convoke another by new election within the space of three months.

LXV. To the King belongs the sanction of the laws voted by the two Chambers.

A law to which the Royal sanction has been denied cannot again be discussed in the session of the same year.

LXVI. The King coins money and places thereon his likeness.

He publishes the decrees and regulations necessary for the execution of the laws, without being able to suspend them or to dispense with their observance.

LXVII. The King may dismiss some portions of the national guard, giving at the same time the necessary orders for its recomposition and reorganization within the space of one year.

LXVIII. The civil list shall be determined by a law for the duration of each reign.

LXIX. At the death of the King, if the heir to the Crown be of age, the Chambers shall be convoked by him within the space of one month, to swear in their presence to keep whole and inviolate the Constitution of the monarchy.

If the heir to the Crown be a minor, and the King shall not have previously provided for the regency and his guardianship, then the Chambers shall be convoked within ten days by the Ministers, under their special responsibility, to provide for the same. And in this case the mother and guardian, and two or more Princes of the Royal Family, shall form part of the Regency. The same measures shall be adopted should the King be unfortunately found, from physical causes, incapable to reign.

LXX. The solemn act for the succession to the Crown, of the August King Charles III, of October 6, 1759, confirmed by the August King Ferdinand I, in Article 5 of the Law of December 8, 1816; the sovereign Decrees of April 7, 1829, of March 12, 1836, and all the acts concerning the Royal Family remain in full force.

CHAPTER V.—*Of the Ministers.*

LXXI. The Ministers are responsible.

LXXII. The acts of every kind signed by the King are not valid unless countersigned by a Minister Secretary of State, who thereby becomes responsible for them.

LXIII. The Ministers have free access to the legislative Chambers, and are to obtain a hearing whenever they wish it; they have, however, no vote unless they form part of them as Peers or Deputies.

The Chambers may require the presence of the Ministers in the debates.

LXXIV. The Chamber of Deputies has alone the right to impeach the Ministers for the acts for which they are responsible. The Chamber of Peers has alone the right to judge them.

LXXV. An appropriate law shall specify the cases in which the Ministers are responsible, the manner in which they are to be tried, and the penalties to which they are subject should they be found guilty.

LXXVI. The King cannot pardon any Ministers condemned, unless it be on the express demand of one of the two Legislative Chambers.

CHAPTER IV.—*Of the Council of State.*

LXXVII. There shall be a Council of State not to exceed twenty-four persons, who are to be citizens in the full enjoyment of all their rights. Foreigners are to be excluded from it although they may have been naturalized.

LXXVIII. The Council of State is presided over by the Minister Secretary of State of Grace and Justice.

LXXIX. The King appoints the Councillors of State.

LXXX. The Council of State is established in order to give advice upon all those affairs, the examination of which may be entrusted to them by the Ministers Secretaries of State in the King's name. A law shall be published to determine its jurisdiction, and until the publication of it all the regulations established for the General Consulta of the kingdom shall be in force with regard to the Council of State, except what may be found in them contrary to the present Constitution.

CHAPTER VII.—*Of the Judicial Order.*

LXXXI. Justice emanates from the King, and is administered in the King's name by the tribunals appointed for that purpose.

LXXXII. No court whatever for litigation can be established unless by a law.

LXXXIII. No extraordinary tribunals are to be formed under whatever denomination. This does not affect, however, the Penal Military Code, and the regulations in force for the army and navy.

LXXXIV. The sittings of the tribunals are public. When a tribunal thinks that publicity would be injurious to public morals it must declare it in an express sentence: and this sentence must be pronounced unanimously when it refers to political offences and abuses of the public press.

LXXXV. The magistrates of the judicial order shall be immoveable. They shall not begin, however, to enjoy that privilege until they are confirmed by a new appointment under the Constitution, and after they have exercised for three successive years the functions of magistrates.

LXXXVI. The agents of the "Pubblico Ministero" (Attorney-General) in the various courts and tribunals are essentially liable to be dismissed.

CHAPTER VIII.—*Transitory Dispositions.*

LXXXVII. Some parts of this Constitution may be modified with regard to our dominions on the other side of the Faro, according to the wants and the particular conditions of the inhabitants thereof.

LXXXVIII. The budget of 1847 shall remain in vigour during the year 1848, and with it provisionally the old prerogative of the Government of providing by extraordinary expedients for the complicated and most pressing wants of the State.

Derogatory Clause.

LXXXIX. All the laws, decrees, and rescripts in vigour as far as they are contrary to the present Constitution are abrogated.

We will and command that the present political Constitution of the monarchy, signed of our free will by us, acknowledged by our Minister Secretary of State of Grace and Justice, furnished with our great seal, countersigned by all our Ministers Secretaries of State, registered and deposited in the archives of the office of the Minister Secretary of State, President of the Council of Ministers, shall be published with the usual solemnities throughout all our royal dominions by the proper authorities, who are to take particular notice of it and see to its execution.

Our Minister Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs, President of the Council of Ministers, is particularly charged with its immediate publication.

Naples, February 10, 1848.

(Signed) FERDINAND.

[Here follow the signatures of all the Ministers.]

No. 86.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 24, 1847.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 14th instant, reporting what passed between the Neapolitan Government and yourself on the subject of the conditions which you required authority to tender to the General Committee at Palermo, I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of the memorandum which you sent in, and which seems most wisely and judiciously calculated to lay the foundation for a continued union of the two countries under the same Crown. I have further to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government think that you were quite right in declining to proceed to Sicily without being authorized to propose such conditions of arrangement as the information which you had received from that country had shown to be indispensable for an amicable arrangement.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 87.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 24, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 15th instant, transmitting copies of the letters which your Lordship had addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo and to the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe relative to the concessions which the King of Naples proposes to make to his Sicilian subjects, I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve of those letters.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 88.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 28.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, containing further accounts of the late events at Palermo and Catania, and one descriptive of Captain Lushington's exertions on the occasion of the surrender of the castle of the former city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 88.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, February 7, 1848.

MY despatch of the 4th instant terminated abruptly, an officer of the "Vengeance" having come unexpectedly to take my letter the "Bulldog."

Before he was gone the attack on the Castle began; it lasted from 1 to half-past 3 o'clock in the afternoon, during which time a fire of shell and shot was kept up incessantly between the Castle and the batteries. These were two in number, viz., one at the Mole and one near the Porta Felice. The latter masked by a wall escaped observation until three 18-pounders looked forth from embrasures just open in the wall and began the attack upon the castle to the astonishment of the garrison.

Hard by the battery were two mortars masked partly by a wall and partly by gabions, shells from which were thrown into the castle with such precision of aim that out of thirty-nine six only fell short of the mark or overshot the castle. The action was brought to a close by an order from the King to surrender the castle, which was carried by Captain Lushington in his gig through the thickest of the fight to the Commandant Colonel Gross, who thereupon agreed to capitulate on honourable terms. The capitulation was carried into effect the next day under the inspection of Captain Lushington who marched with the troops from the castle to the mole, his presence being considered necessary to protect the officers and soldiers from the imagined fury of the multitude. The treatment of Colonel Gross, the unwilling instrument of tyranny and oppression, is a proof that the Sicilians know how to distinguish the hand of the soldier from the heart of the ruler: he who had plunged thousands into misery and ruin by the burning of the Monte di Pietà di Santa Rosalia was so far from being insulted on his march, that he was even saluted by many of the bystanders; unmindful of their own losses the people thought only of the kindness he had shown to the State prisoners.

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During the retreat of the troops "Te Deum" was celebrated in the Cathedral with all the pomp of the Romish Church. The Committee of Public Safety, the Senate of Palermo, and all the foreign Consuls except the Austrian, the Earl and Countess of Mount Edgcombe, and nearly all the Sicilian nobility attended the ceremony along with an immense concourse of spectators of all ranks in society. At the conclusion of "Te Deum" the Cardinal Archbishop standing at the high altar blessed the congregation, and afterwards passing to his throne in the choir bestowed a similar benediction on the national flags which were presented to him by the leaders of the force amidst thunders of applause. The martyrs of the Revolution, the eleven State prisoners, were objects of general attention; they looked remarkable well considering the length and closeness of their imprisonment.

The discovery in the Palace of private letters the inclosures in which were missing, has kindled fiercer indignation than ever against Majo and Vial.

Most of those letters were for Sicilians, a few only were for foreigners and those of little consequence. The former are said to have covered bills of exchange of which no traces are to be found. The accounts of the Duchy of Bronte are among the missing inclosures, the cover alone has been found. It is gratifying to be able to state that the reputation of the Post-Office has risen with the character of the Government; complaints of missing letters are now no longer heard and letters and papers are now posted without hesitation.

The damage done to private houses by the late bombardment is immense. The apartment of Mr. Seager in the Butera Palace is so completely ruined that out of twenty rooms scarce two are habitable; the furniture is either shattered to pieces or totally destroyed. The drawing-room of Mrs. Vianna, an English lady, recently furnished in a sumptuous style, is almost a total wreck. A room at Mr. Murdoch's is also severely injured. Broken windows on the Marina are general; my own are amongst the number. For this damage and destruction claims of compensation have been sent in officially, the justice of which will form the subject or future discussion.

Vice-Consul Jeans writes as follows from Catania under date of the 31st January:

"The insurgents are arming the Bastione di St. Agata and preparing to attack the Castle, where the troops are badly off for provisions. The city is full of armed men wearing the national cockade, and every day crowds come in from the country. The determination to bombard the city unless the soldiers be allowed to march out of the castle with honours is dictated by a spirit of revenge, the more reprehensible as all the prisoners have been treated with the utmost kindness."

Mr. Jeans writes further, 2nd February:

"Here nothing decisive has taken place. General Rossi, to whom a despatch had been forwarded by the members of the Provisional Government, containing a decree granting a constitution, has this morning sent a despatch to the Consular Body requesting them to make known to the Comitato his wish for a suspension of hostilities until the receipt of further instructions from Naples. His request has been made known to the Comitato, but we have yet to learn what their decision may be. This morning a deputation of three members of the Comitato started for Palermo to intimate their wish to the Provisional Government, that Catania and Palermo should act *d'accord*. The decree granting the Constitution has been but coldly received. It is rather considered to be a feint on the part of the King to quiet his continental subjects, that he may have more means of acting against Sicily. At any rate this city will be guided in its future conduct by the acts of Palermo."

Vice-Consul Oates writes this from Girgenti, under date of 2nd February:—

"On 31st the fort at the Mole surrendered with 81 troops of the line. Yesterday the Commandante capitulated for the troops in this town, consisting of 30 of the line and 120 gendarmes. This morning they delivered up their arms. Not a single shot was fired; not a single drop of blood

was shed. Not a single robbery has been committed in the town since the breaking out of the Revolution. Nearly all the troops of the line (Sicilians) have enrolled themselves in the National Guard."

"Last night," says a correspondent, "a new demonstration more brilliant than any of the former took place at the Teatro Carolino, which was opened for the first time since the commencement of the late Revolution. The house, full to overflowing with rank and fashion, was decorated with tricoloured flags, the drapery of which concealed obnoxious emblems of despotic power. For the overture of the play, the 'Gemma di Vergi,' the national hymn was substituted and sung with unbounded enthusiasm. Acclamations in honour of the Committee of Public Safety, the Patriotic Force, the cities of Messina, Catania and Girgenti, England and America, and lastly the British Commodore and the Squadron, burst forth repeatedly amidst cries of 'Viva la Costituzione del 1812!' The duetto of the 'Puritani,' 'Suoni la tromba,' was sung by the pit upstanding.

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, February 11, 1848.

THE conduct of Commodore Yauch in keeping back the Royal order for the surrender of the castle on the 4th instant is the general topic of severe reprehension, and I leave to your Lordship to form your own opinion on the following facts. At 11 a.m. the Commodore anchored, and at 12-40 called on Captain Lushington, who informed him that an attack on the castle was instantly to take place. He returned on board and at 1 the firing commenced. At 2-20 an officer from the Commodore waited on Captain Lushington conveying the Commodore's request that he would endeavour to stop the firing as he had two officers on shore and thought he could treat.

In reply Captain Lushington desired him to tell his Commodore if he would send him a copy of the terms writing and they were such as a British officer could offer, he would stop the firing at all risks. At 3-10 the officer returned with the terms offered by the King. Captain Lushington then proceeded in his gig to deliver the terms, a task which required about twenty minutes. The firing therefore, which began at 1 p.m. and lasted until 3-30, appears to have been kept up without need for two hours and a half.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 88.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, February 13, 1848.

VICE-CONSUL JEANS writes from Catania under date of 7th February:

"General Rossi still holds out in the castle merely because he has not yet been attacked. The leaders of the movement have done every thing in their power to restrain the populace, keeping them employed in undermining the castle, in sending for cannon balls from Messina, mounting cannon in the neighbourhood of the castle, &c. Meantime every day betters the cause of the people weakens the chance of the General, whose provisions must be at a low ebb.

The castle of ~~Milazzo~~ ~~has fallen and the citadel is hastening to its downfall.~~ A strong force with cannon, ammunition, &c., has been dispatched from Palermo under popular leaders to aid the besiegers. The Commandant of the castle having threatened to bombard the town, although not a shot had been fired, unless the citizens paid him a ransom

of a thousand ducats, received for answer that he would do so at his peril, for if taken he should have no quarter; a threat which coupled with active preparations for resistance caused him to retract his menace.

At Messina the French Vice-Consul, M. de Maricourt, has according to M. Bresson covered himself with honour, first in remonstrating to General Nunziante on his breach of promise not to bombard the town; and secondly, in rescuing a religious community, the nuns of San Gregorio, from the grasp of a brutal soldiery, who having taken possession of their monastery, threatened to hold the inmates as hostages for the good behaviour of the townspeople.

At Catania where the castle still held out on the 9th, the surrender of that fortress has probably by this time taken place. Two members of the Committee were to meet two officers of the garrison on the 10th instant on board Her Majesty's ship "Harlequin," at which meeting proposals would probably be made for a suspension of hostilities for a few days, at the end of which period the castle, if not previously relieved, would be surrendered to the citizens.

This arrangement would it is said save the honour of General Rossi, who having still provisions left, thought it derogatory to surrender his trust before the garrison were reduced to absolute want.

Vice-Consul Jeans and Commander Moore, R.N., whose intervention had been solicited by the Committee and accepted by the Commandant, would do their utmost to arrange the preliminaries of a safe and honourable peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 89.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 28.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 19, 1849.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have this morning received from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, conveying intelligence of some excesses committed by the populace of that city, which however terminated in the death of M. Santoro, a principal demagogue.

M. Santoro, a master tanner by trade, was a marked leader in the Revolution of 1820, and has since been conspicuous for the profession of violent opinions; he did not however escape the imputation of being secretly connected with the agents of Government.

The procrastinating policy of the Neapolitan Cabinet has given rise to surmises that it is their design to wait the dissolution of the Provisional Government and of the fair order hitherto observed; and M. Bozzelli is reported to have said that if the Sicilians did not accept the terms offered them they might devour each other.

Prince Torella, Minister of Public Works, in a conversation with myself certainly seemed to contemplate a state of anarchy at Palermo.

M. Scovazzo, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, this morning read to me an admirable protest he had presented in Council against the impracticable conditions of mediation offered to Lord Minto, and his Excellency is prepared to resign his portfolio should his colleagues persist in such a ruinous course of policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, February 17, 1848.

VICE-ADMIRAL Sir William Parker arrived here yesterday with three sail and one steamer from Messina. No sooner had he landed than he learnt that the night before an armed mob, headed or instigated by Santoro the demagogue, had forced the prison doors, dragged forth thirty-two sbirri and hurried them to death without any form of trial. Horror-struck at the dreadful tidings he demanded explanations, which he has received this morning from Don Ruggiero Settimo and Don Mariano Stabile, who accompanied me on board the "Hibernia." The Committee it seems clearly were unable to prevent the horrid crime, but Santoro, the author of the massacre, has met with just punishment at the hands of his countrymen. Last night the Committee resolved to arrest him at all risks. The resolution becoming known, Santoro gathered his followers together and made a sudden attack on a post of the National Guard. The attack was repelled, sixty or seventy shots were fired on both sides, but one alone took effect, and the victim was Santoro himself. This morning his two sons came in to apprise me of the death of their father and to beg an asylum for their widowed mother. The prayer was instantly granted, and the family of the deceased are now under my roof.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 90.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 29.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a letter which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, acquainting me with the acceptance by the General Committee of my offer to mediate between the King of Naples and his Sicilian subjects.

I likewise inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by the President of the General Committee, and copy and translation of the answer which has been returned through Mr. Goodwin to my letter of the 12th instant, transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch of the 15th instant.

From these papers your Lordship will perceive that the General Committee has sought to give a wider interpretation to my letter to Mr. Goodwin than is warranted by its contents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 90.

Consul Goodwin to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Palermo, February 13, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that having communicated your Lordship's letter of the 12th instant to the General Committee, stating that your Lordship is ready to undertake the mediation, if it should appear to the General Committee that an accommodation may be effected on the basis described by your Lordship, I have been desired by the Committee to state "That there is every appearance that such accommodation may be effected, and that the Committee request your Lordship to undertake the proposed mediation with as little delay as possible."

I have only to add that your Lordship's letter was read with a lively satisfaction, and that the vote for soliciting your Lordship's mediation was carried by acclamation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 90.

Don Ruggiero Settimo to the Earl of Minto.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Palermo, February 13, 1848.

HER Britannic Majesty's Consul at Palermo has this evening communicated to us a letter addressed to him by your Excellency, dated yesterday, relative to the mediation of your Excellency with a view to the consolidation of the rights of Sicily.

The Committee has forthwith addressed to the Consul a reply, which I have the honour to transmit herewith in duplicate.

Being desirous of conveying to you the expression of my own and the public gratitude for your Excellency's exertions in favour of Sicily,

I have, &c.
The President,
(Signed) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 90.

The General Committee at Palermo to Consul Goodwin.

Signore,

Palermo, 13 Febbrajo, 1848.

IL Comitato Generale ha letto e preso copia della lettera che Lord Minto, Rappresentante di Sua Maestà Britannica in Napoli, ha diretto a lei da Napoli sotto la data del 12 Febbrajo corrente, con l'incarico di comunicarla a questo Comitato Generale, e dalla quale risultano le seguenti assicurazioni.

1°. Che in virtù dell' Art. 87 del Decreto pubblicato in Napoli nella sera del giorno 11 corrente per proclamare una Costituzione, questo decreto debba esser considerato come applicabile solamente a Napoli per quanto riguarda lo stabilimento del Parlamento.

2°. Che sia intenzione, siccome già Lord Minto ha in altre comunicazioni a lei manifestato, che un separato Parlamento sarà stabilito in Sicilia, e che vi sia in Napoli tutta la disposizione a consultare i desiderii dell' isola in taluni punti connessi con la costituzione organica delle due Camere.

3°. Che Lord Minto ha avuta rinnovata l'assicurazione che qualunque decreto per la creazione di un Parlamento Siciliano dovrà riferirsi agli antichi dritti della Sicilia ed alla Costituzione del 1812.

4°. Che il Rè di Napoli ha nel giorno 12 espresso a Lord Minto il desiderio d'impiegare la sua mediazione presso il Comitato Generale, e che Lord Minto è pronto ad imbarcarsi e venire in Palermo, se il Comitato Generale è di avviso che un accomodamento potrebbe aver luogo sulle basi di sopra indicate.

Questo Comitato Generale prima di tutto porge a lei i più vivi ringraziamenti per questa sollecita comunicazione, e la prega di essere l'interprete presso quell' illustre personaggio dei sentimenti del Comitato Generale e del popolo tutto per l'interesse che ha preso a favore dei dritti della Sicilia.

Il voto universale di tutta l'isola è che il General Parlamento riunito in Palermo adatti ai tempi la Costituzione, che riformata sotto l'influenza della Gran Bretagna nel 1812, noi di dritto non abbiamo mai cessato di possedere.

Le assicurazioni ricevute da Lord Minto ci fanno esser certi che il Rè

di Napoli sia pronto a riconoscere gli antichi dritti della Sicilia e la sua Costituzione del 1812.

Che debbano a questa Costituzione farsi le riforme tendenti ad adattarla ai tempi è già un'idea generalmente manifestata. E se le riforme alle quali allude il Rappresentante di Sua Maestà Britannica, conducono appunto a tale scopo, certamente che la mediazione di Lord Minto, la di cui presenza sarà sempre gratissima, non potrà che essere ricevuta col massimo piacere.

Il Presidente,
(Firmato) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.
Il Segretario General,
M. STABILE.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palermo, February 13, 1848.

THE General Committee has read and taken copy of the letter which Lord Minto, Her Britannic Majesty's Representative at Naples, has addressed to you from Naples dated the 12th instant, charging you to lay it before the General Committee, and from which would result the following assurances:

1st. That in virtue of the 87th Article of the Decree published at Naples on the evening of the 11th instant, proclaiming a Constitution, this decree is to be applicable only to Naples in so far as relates to the establishment of a Parliament.

2nd. That it is intended, as Lord Minto had already informed you in previous communications, that a separate Parliament be established for Sicily, and that every disposition was felt at Naples to consult the wishes of the island in certain points connected with the organic constitution of the two Chambers.

3rd. That Lord Minto had been repeatedly assured that any decree for the creation of a Sicilian Parliament would have reference to the ancient rights of Sicily and to the Constitution of 1812.

4th. That the King of Naples had on the 12th instant expressed his wish to avail himself of Lord Minto's mediation with the Committee General, and that Lord Minto is prepared to embark for Palermo, should the General Committee be of opinion that an accommodation might be brought about upon the basis above mentioned.

The General Committee is in the first place desirous of expressing to you its most lively thanks for this friendly communication, and begs you to convey to that illustrious personage the sentiments entertained by the General Committee and the nation generally for the interest he takes in favour of the rights of Sicily.

It is the universal wish of the whole island that the General Parliament assembled at Palermo should adapt to the wants of the times the Constitution which, reformed in 1812 under the auspices of Great Britain, we have never rightfully ceased to possess.

That this Constitution should undergo such reforms as would tend to adapt it to the times is an opinion which has now been universally made known. And if the reforms alluded to by the Representative of Her Britannic Majesty will lead precisely to this end, certainly the mediation of Lord Minto, whose presence must always be most welcome, cannot fail to be received with the utmost pleasure.

The President,
(Signed) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.
The Secretary General,
M. STABILE.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 29.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 18, 1848.

HAVING received information on which I could rely, that the proposal for an equal representation of Sicily and Naples in the Mixed Commission of the two Parliaments intended to be established, had been negatived in the Council of Ministers, where one Sicilian only, M. Scovazzo, has a seat, although no intimation of this decision had yet been communicated to me by the Duke of Serra Capriola, I wrote to his Excellency desiring to be admitted to an audience of His Majesty the next day.

His Majesty received me with much cordiality and listened to me with attention whilst I represented the great danger attending any delay in the pacification of Sicily, and the expediency of offering at once such conditions as were likely to be accepted.

I then proceeded to state that having been given to understand that His Majesty individually objected to the establishment of an entirely distinct and independent Legislature in Sicily, I had hitherto refrained from advising recourse to such a measure, which however in my own opinion was the most advantageous to him and was best calculated to afford satisfaction to both parts of his dominions, and that I had therefore confined my views to the expedient devised by his Ministers of separate Parliaments for provincial legislation alone, leaving all questions of general interest to be disposed of by another common Legislature to be formed of a deputation from each of the two Parliaments.

That an insuperable difficulty however here at once presented itself, the Neapolitan Ministers demanding for their larger territory a preponderance in the Mixed Legislature to be established, while the Sicilians insisted upon a parity of representation, urging truly, that with a constant majority against them, Sicily would be practically deprived of a voice and be subjected to the Parliament of Naples.

Under these circumstances I said that I saw no other course open than the admission of totally independent Parliaments for each of the two divisions of the kingdom with an union only of the Crowns.

His Majesty listened very favourably to this proposal and to all my observations in support of it, and after a conversation of some length, in which the subject was fully discussed, the King said that he would submit it to his Ministers.

I had afterwards an opportunity of ascertaining that His Majesty had recommended my suggestions to the immediate attention of his Council, and that he had faithfully reported to M. Bozzelli (and I have no doubt also to the Duke of Serra Capriola) the substance of my conversation with him.

On my return from the Palace I called on the Duke of Serra Capriola, and finding him from home I wrote him a few lines mentioning the advice which I had given the King, in order that it might be considered in the Council to assemble next morning for the purpose of formally declaring its decision on the course to be taken with regard to Sicily.

The Duke of Serra Capriola and M. Bozzelli called upon me yesterday evening after the rising of the Council, putting into my hands a long and elaborate minute, of which a copy will be sent to your Lordship, comprising, as they stated, the terms they were prepared to offer to the Sicilians and which they were anxious to have communicated to the Provisional Government at Palermo.

I assured them that it was useless to propose such conditions; that I had a few hours before received communications from Palermo which satisfied me that the Sicilians would not treat on such a basis; and that while they expressed their satisfaction with the explanations contained in my letter of the 12th to Mr. Goodwin, this evidently arose from their having misunderstood and greatly overrated the extent of the concessions which I had encouraged them to expect.

I need not fatigue your Lordship with the recapitulation of all that passed in a long discussion on the subject, in which I sought as strongly as I could to impress upon the Ministers the importance of an early reconciliation with Sicily, and the unreasonableness of affecting to deal with it as a conquered State which was to submit itself to the judgment of Neapolitan Ministers. I promised however to consider their paper attentively and to transmit it for them to Palermo if such was their desire.

After an attentive perusal of this document after they had left me, I felt that I must not allow it to be said that I had by my silence acquiesced in the forced interpretation of the CIVth Article of the Treaty of Vienna, as a revocation of the free Constitution of Sicily, and I therefore shortly protested in my own name against this doctrine, in a memorandum containing some remarks on the minute of Council which I addressed to the Duke of Serra Capriola, and a copy of which shall be sent to your Lordship.

I have since learned that on the receipt of this memorandum a Council was summoned for to-morrow morning, but it is probable that the result of their deliberations may not reach me in time for the packet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

No. 92.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 29.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 19, 1848.

WITH reference to my previous despatch, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the papers to which allusion is therein made, viz., copies of the Neapolitan Minute of Council, together with the memorandum I submitted to the Duke of Serra Capriola in reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

Neapolitan Minute of Council.

PEI buoni uffizj che Lord Minto con sì cortese sollecitudine mostrasi disposto ad adoperare nello scopo di ristabilire la tranquillità e la pace nei Reali Dominj di là dal Faro, Sua Maestà consente a conferirgli tutte le facoltà che una sì delicata missione richiede. Ma Lord Minto non può non comprendere nella sua saviezza, che queste facoltà debbono trovar necessariamente il loro limite in un principio di dritto pubblico, di cui è facil cosa il misurar l'importanza.

Uno è certamente il Regno delle Due Sicilie, come tale riconosciuto dai Trattati esistenti e dalle Grande Potenze di Europa. Per la qual cosa tutto ciò che può teadere direttamente o indirettamente a violare questa unità di regno, non dev'esser materia di negoziazione. Un tal principio una volta stabilito, le conseguenze che ne discendono sono semplicissime.

Aderendo con magnanima espansione di paterno affetto al voto unanime de' suoi amatissimi popoli, Sua Maestà nel 10 febbrajo del correante anno proclamava irrevocabilmente sanzionata una Costituzione sotto forme Rappresentative. Diranno i pubblicisti dei due Mondi se alcuno elemento di libertà politica sia stato in essa obliato e se potea mettersi più di lenità nel coordinarne le parti. Questa Costituzione debb'esser dunque una e la stessa in tutto il reame; ogni pretensione in contrario distruggerebbe la unità dello Stato.

Si dice che i Reali Dominj di là dal Faro han bisogni e condizioni di una tale specialità di carattere da rendere indispensabile una specialità corrispondente di garanzie. Sua Maestà, prevedendo il caso, avea già dichiarato nell' Articolo 67 della Costituzione, che le vie restavano schiuse

a modificarne da questo aspetto talune parti, onde quelle popolazioni vi attingessero elementi non dubbii di prosperità e di sicurezza. E sollecitata in seguito ad esprimere in che mai quelle modificazioni potessero consistere, ne annunziò di tratto una, la più larga, la più fondamentale, la più comprensiva di quante si potesse immaginare, quella cioè di un separato ed indipendente Parlamento.

Ma se un tal separato Parlamento, rivestito de' medesimi identici poteri che quello di Napoli, e composto pur esso di due Camere, ha per oggetto di provvedere a quella specialità di condizioni e di bisogni, è di logica evidenza che non può esso estendersi ad altro, se non all' amministrazione interna di quei Reali Dominj. E questo il dettato archetipo che non conviene mai perdere di mira, quando i mezzi e lo scopo si vogliano tener fra loro in perfettissimo accordo.

E certo che a render prospera l'amministrazione interna di quei Reali Dominj, è forza che il separato Parlamento porti seco un Ministero ed un Consiglio di Stato del pari separato e distinto da quella di Napoli, e che in conseguenza tutti gl'impieghi civili e i beneficj ecclesiastici e i gradi nella Guardia Nazionale siano dal Rè conferiti a soli cittadini Siciliani. Ed il Rè ha pur determinato che le cose stabilissero altrimenti.

In egual modo è indispensabile come si è sempre praticato, che vi sia colà un Luogotenente rivestito di alte facoltà, il quale rappresentendovi la persona del Rè, non obblighi quelli abitanti a valicare il mare per la risoluzione dei casi occorrente; ma la scelta del Luogotenente debb' esser tra le prerogative della Corona, essendo strano che mentre i più infimi tra cittadini han dritto di eleggere a loro posta i Deputati al Parlamento, possa essere interdetto al Rè di scegliere anch' esso liberamente il suo Delegato al potere esecutivo, che in lui esclusivamente risiede. E certo altresì che per gl'interessi comuni a tutto il reame, i due Parlamenti di Napoli e di Sicilia debbon entrambi esser consultati ed intesi; e non potendo ciò eseguirsi col riunire i due Parlamenti nella loro piena integrità, è forza di correre all' espediente di trarre dal loro seno delle Commissioni, le quali rappresentino all' uopo un Parlamento misto in compendio. Ma un tal misto Parlamento debb' esser proporzionato sempre alla forza delle popolazioni rispettive, poi ch'esso rappresenta non due unità staccate ma due singole frazioni di una unità medesima. Formar quel Parlamento misto di un egual numero di Delegati, è un rompere apertamente l'unità del regno.

A questo medesimo principio si ricongiunge la necessità ineluttabile, che il Rè possa disporre della forza pubblica nel modo che stima più conducente a sostenere la indipendenza e la integrità del reame verso lo straniero. Pretendere che debbono esservi sole truppe Siciliane in Sicilia, sole truppe Napoletane in Napoli, è un distrugger francamente ogni carattere nazionale all' esercito, e farne due frazioni difformi e sconosciute fra loro, che in caso di guerra torrebbero fino alla possibilità di una valida e dignitosa resistenza.

Partendo da questi dati, le facoltà di cui può esser convenientemente rivestito l'onorevole Lord Minto sono quelle di annunziare:—

1°. Che il Rè consente a concedere pei suoi dominj di là dal Faro un separato Parlamento composto di due Camere, l'una di Deputati, l'altra di Pari a vita; coi medesimi identici poteri che si trovano attribuiti nella Costituzione al Parlamento dei suoi dominj di quà dal Faro.

2°. Che nella composizione della Camera de' Pari si avrà riguardo ai desiderj ed alle tradizioni de' Siciliani; per cui Sua Maestà non dissente di nominar Pari a vita quelli che già si trovassero Pari destinati negli antichi Parlamenti, e seguendo per gli altri le norme stabilite nella Costituzione.

3°. Che intorno alle condizioni di eligibilità pei Deputati, saranno consultati nella legge provvisoria elettorale i bisogni di quelle popolazioni, e lo stato in cui trovasi la proprietà in quei Reali Dominj; potendo poi la suddetta legge venir modificata dal Parlamento di Sicilia nel senso che stimerà opportuno, allorchè secondo l'Articolo 62 della Costituzione sarà chiamato a renderla definitiva.

4°. Che oltre al separato Parlamento, vi sarà ne' Reali Dominj di là dal Faro un Ministero ed un Consiglio di Stato composto tutto di cittadini Siciliani; e che a soli cittadini Siciliani saranno ivi del pari conferiti

gl'impieghi civili, i benefiej ecclesiastici, e i gradi nella Guardia Nazionale, la cui formazione è di dritto.

5°. Che in quei rami di pubblico servizio, che son comuni ad entrambe le parti de' Reali Dominj, un dovuto numero di cittadini Siciliani sarà impiegato in proporzione della popolazione di Sicilia, comparata a quella di Napoli; dovendo sempre la Sicilia stessa fornire il suo contingente per le forze di terra e di mare nelle medesime proporzioni.

6°. Che ne' Reali Dominj di là dal Faro è fra le prerogative della Corona il destinare un Luogotenente di libera scelta del Rè, sia persona di un Principe del Sangue o di altro benemerito ed illustre personaggio del reame, come il disporre della forza pubblica nel modo che stima più conducente a sostenere la indipendenza e la integrità del territorio.

7°. Che per gl' interessi comuni, delle Commissioni saranno tratte dai due Parlamenti, le quali riunite ove il Rè giudica, in un Parlamento misto in compendio, voteranno l'occorrente, salva la sanzione Sovrana, come di diritto; e benchè queste Commissioni dovessero anch'esse giusta il principio stabilito, esser proporzionate alla forza delle due popolazioni, pur Sua Maestà consente che si componessero di due terzi di Napolitani e di un terzo di Siciliani.

8°. Che per oggetti di comune interesse debbono intendersi quelli, che non appartengono esclusivamente all'amministrazione interna di ciascuna delle due parti del reame; come sono, a cagion di esempio, quelli della Lista Civile, delle Relazioni Diplomatiche, dei Trattati di Commercio e simili, delle Tariffe de' Dazj pel Commercio esterno, del contingente dell' Esercito, &c.

Un supplemento alla Costituzione del 10 febbrajo sarà irrevocabilmente sanzionato su queste basi, quando all'onorevole Lord Minto riuscisse ad aver successi nella sua cooperazione a far cessare lo stato di ansietà e di disordine in cui oggi malauguratamente si trova la Sicilia.

(Firmato) DUCA DI SERRA CAPRIOLA.

(Translation.)

LORD MINTO having shown so much friendly readiness to employ his good offices with a view to the re-establishment of tranquillity and peace in the Royal dominions beyond the Straits, His Majesty consents to confer upon him the powers requisite for so delicate a mission. But Lord Minto's sagacity will point out to him that these powers must necessarily be limited by a principle of public law, of which the importance is very perceptible.

The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies is most undoubtedly a single kingdom, recognized as such by existing treaties and by the Great Powers of Europe. For which reason everything that has a tendency either directly or indirectly to violate the unity of the kingdom must be excluded as an element of negotiation. This principle once established, the consequences resulting from it are most obvious.

In compliance with the unanimous wish of his beloved subjects and in a movement of paternal affection, His Majesty proclaimed and sanctioned irrevocably on the 10th of February of this year, a Constitution with Representative forms. Public writers in both hemispheres will decide whether any one element of political liberty has been omitted in the framing of it, or whether it were possible to exhibit a greater amount of good faith in the arrangement of its details.

This Constitution therefore should be one and the same throughout the whole kingdom. Every pretension to the contrary would be destructive to the unity of the State.

It is asserted that the Royal dominions beyond the Straits are so circumstanced and have wants of so special a nature as indispensably to require a corresponding peculiarity of guarantees. His Majesty having foreseen this case had taken care to declare in the 87th Article of the Constitution, that a door was left open for the modification in this sense of certain parts of it, in order that undoubted elements of prosperity and security might thereby be ensured to those inhabitants. And being subsequently solicited to state what might be the nature of those modifica-

tions, His Majesty at once made known the greatest, the most fundamental, the most comprehensive which it is possible to imagine, namely the grant of a separate and independent Parliament.

But although this separate Parliament, invested with the same identical powers as that of Naples and composed likewise of two Chambers, is intended to provide for that speciality of circumstances and of wants, it is logically evident that it cannot apply to any matters except such as relate to the internal administration of those Royal dominions. This is the leading principle which must never be lost sight of, if it is wished to preserve complete harmony between the means and the end.

It is clear that in order to ensure the prosperity of the internal administration of those Royal dominions, it would be necessary that the separate Parliament should be accompanied by a Ministry and Council of State likewise separate and distinct from that of Naples, and consequently that all the civil appointments and ecclesiastical preferments should be conferred on Sicilian citizens exclusively. And in this respect therefore the King has determined that some such arrangement should be made.

In the same way it is indispensable, as has always been the case, that a Lord Lieutenant should reside there invested with high powers, who as immediately representing the person of the King would render it unnecessary for the inhabitants to cross the seas in order to obtain the solution of the different questions arising. But the choice of the Lieutenant must continue a prerogative of the Crown, as it would be strange indeed that whereas the meanest citizen possesses the right of electing in his stead the Deputies to Parliament, the King alone should be debarred from the free choice of his delegate in the executive power which is vested exclusively in him.

It is evident on the other hand that in matters of common interest to the entire kingdom the two Parliaments should be consulted and heard, and it not being practicable to assemble the two Parliaments in their complete integrity, it would be necessary to have recourse to the expedient of taking from their body Commissions which would, when necessary, represent a mixed Parliament of reduced numbers; but this mixed Parliament ought always to be constituted in proportion to the amount of the respective populations, inasmuch as it would represent not two detached unities but two separate fractions of the same unity.

To compose this mixed Parliament of an equal number of delegates would be an evident infraction of the unity of the kingdom.

In this principle is likewise included the unavoidable necessity that the King be empowered to dispose of the public forces in such a way as he shall consider best calculated to maintain the independence and integrity of the kingdom against foreign Powers. To pretend that Sicilian troops only shall occupy Sicily and Neapolitan troops alone Naples, would be an open destruction of all national character in the army and would lead to the formation of two distinct fractions unknown to each other, which in case of war would render an efficacious and dignified resistance impossible.

Starting with these data, the powers with which the honourable Lord Minto might be invested would be to announce:

1st. That the King agrees to concede to his dominions beyond the Straits a separate Parliament composed of two Chambers, the one of Deputies, the other of Peers for life, with precisely the same functions as are attributed by the Constitution to the Parliament of his dominions on this side of the Straits.

2nd. That in the composition of the Chamber of Peers due regard should be had to the wishes and traditions of the Sicilians; wherefore His Majesty would not refuse to nominate Peers for life such persons as should have been designated Peers in the ancient Parliaments, proceeding with respect to the remainder according to the rule laid down in the Constitution.

3rd. That with respect to the conditions of eligibility for the Deputies, the wants of those populations shall be consulted in the provisory electoral law, and also the present state of property in those Royal dominions; and the above-mentioned law may be modified by the Parliament of Sicily in such manner as shall be deemed advisable at the period when, in accordance to the 62nd Article of the Constitution, the Parliament shall be called upon to make it permanent.

4th. That in addition to the separate Parliament there shall be in the Royal dominions beyond the Straits a Ministry and Council of State composed entirely of Sicilian citizens; civil appointments and ecclesiastical benefices shall be conferred in the same way, as also the grades in the National Guard, the formation of which is established by law.

5th. That in those branches of the public service which are common to both parts of the Royal dominions a due number of Sicilian citizens shall be employed in proportion to the population of Sicily as compared with that of Naples; Sicily being bound also to furnish her contingent to the land and sea forces in the same proportion.

6th. That in the Royal dominions beyond the Straits, it be a prerogative of the Crown to name a Lord Lieutenant at the King's own free choice, whether in the person of a Prince of the Blood or any other deserving and illustrious personage of the kingdom; as also to dispose of the public forces in such a way as he shall consider most conducive to the preservation of the independence and integrity of the territory.

7th. That in common interests, Commissions shall emanate from the two Parliaments and shall assemble wherever the King shall think fit, in a mixed Parliament, and shall pass whatever votes are necessary, subject to the Sovereign sanction as by law required. And although these Commissions ought in accordance with the principle laid down to be in proportion to the amount of the respective populations, His Majesty will consent that they should consist of two-thirds Neapolitans and one-third Sicilians.

8th. That by matters of common interest is to be understood those which belong exclusively to the internal administration of neither portion of the kingdom; as for instance the Civil List, Diplomatic Relations, Treaties of Commerce and the like, Customs Duties upon Foreign Commerce, the Contingent of the Army, &c.

A supplement to the Constitution of February 10th would be sanctioned irrevocably on these bases, should the honourable Lord Minto succeed in bringing about by his successful efforts a cessation of the state of anxiety and disorder in which unfortunately Sicily is now involved.

(Signed) SERRA CAPRIOLA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

Memorandum by the Earl of Minto in reply to the Minute of Council.

Naples, February 17, 1848.

I HAVE read with attention the minute of Council this evening communicated to me by the Duke of Serra Capriola and M. Bozzelli.

In consenting to become the channel through which this paper may be submitted to the consideration of the General Committee of Palermo, I feel it necessary to protest in my own name against the construction attempted to be given to the CIVth Article of the Treaty of Vienna as in any degree trenching upon the Constitution of Sicily or the rights and liberties of the Sicilian people such as they existed at that time. It would be out of place to argue this point here, but I could not allow it to be supposed that I had acquiesced in the forced interpretation which has been sought for that Article.

Before the actual transmission of this document to Sicily I hope I may be excused if I express my serious doubt of its being calculated in its present form to conciliate a favourable reception of the proposals it is intended to convey. In such discussions the position assumed by the opposite party should be borne in mind; it is here entirely overlooked, and the whole argument is made to rest on the assumption of premises which he utterly rejects. The Sicilian stands upon his claim of right to the Constitution of 1812, untouched as he maintains by the Treaty of Vienna; how can we expect him to listen to a paper which at the outset begins by assuming a state of things entirely inconsistent with the existence of any such right, and proceeds to tell him with great emphasis and authority

that whatever he is to obtain must proceed from the spontaneous bounty of the King.

It is surely unwise to introduce such topics, the effect of which at once must be to close the ear and arm the feelings against any proposal of which they are the prelude. The whole course of argument throughout the paper appears to me open to a similar criticism as calculated to generate an adverse sentiment in the quarter to which it is addressed. These rhetorical exertions indeed, however ingenious, are more apt to provoke controversy than to produce conviction, and I do not believe them to be useful in the practical conduct of public affairs. Upon the whole therefore I am inclined to think that the bare statement of the eight articles as recited in the latter part of the paper would be more likely to find favour, than when encumbered with the introductory argument to which I have referred.

With regard to the conditions proposed in these eight articles I observe,—

That they do not admit of any hereditary Peerage. I know not what importance may be attached to this in Sicily, but it should be remembered that I was distinctly requested to state that a portion of the Peerage should be hereditary if desired, and I do not imagine it can be intended to retract this promise.

That it does not appear that the Sicilian contingents for the army are to be separately embodied.

That no intimation is given of the terms in which the preamble of the decree will recognise the constitutional rights of Sicily. This is a point upon which distinct information may be expected in a paper which is to be received as embodying the entire intentions of the Government.

That Articles 7 and 8 appear to me fatal to all hope of accommodation.

Having offered these few observations I am willing, if desired, to forward the minute of Council in its present or an amended form, and it will give me much pleasure if it should meet with a more favourable reception than I can at present venture to anticipate.

I will only add that I cannot contemplate without much uneasiness the consequences of the delay to be incurred in attempts to drive a bargain, before any basis can be established on which a negotiation may be opened.

(Signed) MINTO.

No. 93.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 3, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 18th ultimo, giving an account of the advice which you had given to the King of Naples and to Prince Serra Capriola, with regard to the future government of Sicily, I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve of your proceedings as reported in your despatch above mentioned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 94.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 3, 1848.

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve of the memorandum which you gave to the Duke of Serra Capriola in reply to the minute of the Neapolitan Council, a copy of which was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch of the 19th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 3.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 23, 1848.

SIR WILLIAM PARKER arrived here with a portion of his squadron on the 21st instant, but the state of the weather was such as to prevent me from communicating personally with him until the next morning.

Your Lordship will perceive from the correspondence accompanying this despatch, that it is impossible to hope for the pacification of Sicily on the terms proposed by the Government of Naples, and when these become known at Palermo it is very probable that the Provisional Government there may feel it necessary to convoke their Parliament, as the only means of maintaining order and tranquillity.

The Duke of Serra Capriola called upon me last night and began the conversation with an expression of his regret at learning from Lord Napier that I had declined any further interposition to prevent the effusion of blood in Sicily.

I said that I had done all that was in my power as long as I could hope to see this Government disposed to lend itself fairly to an accommodation. That by the hopes I had held out to the General Committee of Palermo, I had induced them to defer the convocation of their Parliament and their attack upon the citadel of Messina, but that after the last decision of the Council of Ministers I could not delude the Sicilians by expectations which would not be realized.

Our conversation was then directed to a reconsideration of the conditions upon which peace might be established. I put M. Stabile's letter into his hand, telling him that I was assured by Sir William Parker that as regarded the main points to be treated of, it might be regarded as the ultimatum of the General Committee.

The great difficulty which he expressed on reading this letter, regarded the establishment of a Sicilian army; but he did not positively reject the proposal on my telling him that there was no use in proceeding with any negotiation unless that was conceded.

With regard to the limitation of the powers of the Mixed Commission to the subjects enumerated by M. Stabile, he objected only to the exclusion of Treaties of Commerce and Customs Duties.

I told him that in this Article I might possibly be able to induce the Sicilians to modify their demand. That what experience had taught them to apprehend was the imposition of duties and restrictions upon their exports. That export duties did not usually enter into the engagements of Commercial Treaties; and that it seemed to me sufficient for this Government that it should be able to establish an uniformity of import duties in both countries. He received this suggestion favourably, and promised that the whole subject of Sicilian negotiation should be reconsidered by the Government the next morning.

I cannot certainly say to what this apparent return to a pacific inclination may be attributed. It may be the effect of the strong manifestation of public dissatisfaction with the conduct of the Government in this matter, or of the certainty that the Sicilians will proceed to the convocation of their own Parliament; or it may be a mere show of conciliation, to gain time for further preparations to resume the war in Sicily, as advantage has already been taken of the forbearance of the Sicilians whilst the negotiation was pending, to dispatch a large force which sailed yesterday to reinforce the garrison of Messina.

I do not think it possible for the Government to resist the strong determination of the Neapolitan public to have the Sicilian Question settled.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

No. 96.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 3.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 23, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of the correspondence that has lately taken place between myself and Sir William Parker and Lord Mount Edgcumbe relative to the pacification of Sicily.

I likewise take this opportunity of transmitting to your Lordship copy of a note which has been addressed to me upon the same subject by the Duc de Serra Capriola.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 96.

The Earl of Minto to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

(Extract.)

Naples, February 16, 1848.

I WAS in hopes that I might have been with you at Palermo by this time, but I am still detained here by the unwillingness of the Neapolitan Government to consent to such conditions as I think the Sicilians may be induced to accept, and I have not yet been able to obtain any material addition to the concessions described in my letters to Lord Mount Edgcumbe.

The main objection felt in Sicily refers I imagine to the composition of the proposed Mixed Commission of the two Parliaments, which is to be two-thirds Neapolitan and one-third Sicilian, thus practically subjecting Sicily to Neapolitan legislation.

I have been contending for a parity of number of each nation in this Commission, but this proposal was negatived in the Council of Ministers last night, and I in consequence applied for an audience of the King who received me this morning.

I told him that perceiving the impossibility of arriving at any arrangement for combined legislation between the two countries, I earnestly recommended that the attempt should be abandoned, and that a perfectly independent legislation should be admitted in each, as was the case of old.

The King made no objection on his own part to this suggestion, but said that he would consult his responsible Ministers on the subject, by whose advice as a Constitutional King he must be guided, and there the matter rests at this moment. I have since unsuccessfully endeavoured to see the Duke of Serra Capriola and other Ministers, who were all engaged at the Palace, and I am not willing to detain the "Porcupine" longer.

I write all this to you to be confidentially communicated to Lord Mount Edgcumbe, whose invaluable assistance I have already received in these matters. All that can be prudently said at present to the Provisional Government at Palermo is that I am doing my best to obtain such conditions as may lead to an accommodation, without acquainting them with the precise nature of my proposals, which may possibly be rejected here. If I can succeed in making an impression on the Government in the course of this evening or to-morrow forenoon, I will sail to-morrow evening in the "Bulkdog."

Inclosure 2 in No. 96.

The Earl of Minto to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

(Extract.)

Naples, February 17, 1848.

I HAVE just received Mr. Goodwin's letter of the 13th, together with a communication from the General Committee inviting my interposition.

Had I been successful in obtaining authority to propose the condi-

tions for which I have been contending here, either as regards a parity of Representation of the two countries in the Mixed Commission, or the better alternative of totally distinct legislation for each on all subjects, in their respective Parliaments, I should not have hesitated to proceed immediately to Palermo; but I am not sure that the Committee clearly understand the basis of the only arrangement which I should yet be able to propose to them.

These conditions are described in a memorandum inclosed to Mr. Goodwin in my letter of the 10th and in my correspondence with him and Lord Mount Edgumbe, and amount to little more than this: That the organic constitution of the Sicilian Parliament shall be such as to satisfy the Sicilians; but that there shall be formed a Mixed Commission of the two Parliaments in the proportion of two-thirds Neapolitan and one-third Sicilian, to which in case of disagreement between the two Parliaments on subjects of common concern, the reference shall be made.

If, with the understanding that such are the best terms I have been able to obtain, the General Committee is satisfied with such a basis of accommodation, I am ready to proceed to Palermo, which I am unwilling to do whilst uncertain what the Committee may understand to be the intentions of this Government.

You will perceive from what I write, that the hopes I entertained yesterday have not been realized, and though no formal answer has yet been made to my proposals, I have reason to know that they will not be agreed to in the Council of Ministers.

I must again repeat that the difficulty does not rest with the King, who is most anxious for a reconciliation with his Sicilian subjects and is perfectly ready to afford them every satisfaction they could desire, but that it is his Ministers who stand out against every concession.

Under these circumstances I shall not stir till I see you or hear from you again. I think the best course will be, that with the assistance of Lord Mount Edgumbe you should endeavour to ascertain what are really the lowest terms that are likely to be accepted, and that you should come over here at once, leaving what force you may think necessary at Palermo.

Inclosure 3 in No. 96.

The Earl of Minto to the Earl of Mount Edgumbe.

(Extract.)

Naples, February 17, 1848.

I WRITE to Sir William Parker who will show you my letter. Should he not be in Palermo I have desired Mr. Goodwin to give it to you, and I beg you to open it.

I have just received the letters of the 13th from Palermo, but I have some fears that the terms I have been able to obtain may not be quite understood there and that they may expect more than I could yet assure them of.

Inclosure 4 in No. 96.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Earl of Minto.

(Extract.)

"Hibernia," Palermo, February 19, 1848.

I DID not receive your letter of the 17th by the Neapolitan steamer until 6 p.m. yesterday; that of the 16th by the "Porcupine" reached me the preceding day. I have been five hours to-day discussing with Lord Mount Edgumbe and the President and Secretary of the General Committee such parts of your communications as it was advisable to make them acquainted with. The two latter were so apprehensive of the violence that would be exhibited by the Committee, if they were informed of the only terms offered by the Neapolitan Government, so very short of what they consider themselves in a position to demand, flushed as they are with their recent successes, that I have abstained from saying more than your unwillingness to come hither unless you were authorized to propose conditions likely to

satisfy them; and after this it was settled that Signor Stabile, the Secretary, should write me his opinion of such points of the concessions offered by the Government as are considered positively inadmissible, and specifying those which it is thought can alone be referred to the Mixed Commission which may be established in the proportion of one-third only of Sicilians. He is also of opinion that if your Lordship can obtain from the Government favourable concessions on the main points there will be just grounds for anticipating a satisfactory result.

He is satisfied that many minor points would be given up by the Committee if your Lordship was present, which would be resisted if negotiated at a distance.

Your Lordship will however be able to form your own judgment by M. Stabile's letter, with which I hope to dispatch the "Porcupine" as soon as I receive it, and I shall at the same time leave Palermo with the squadron direct for Naples. The "Porcupine" goes round by Messina to convey orders for the "Odin," which I expect with my letters and Admiralty despatches from Malta, to join me at Naples instead of coming hither. She will also bring the latest tidings from Captain Codrington, who will I fear find it difficult to restrain the contending parties at Messina when they hear of the terms offered for Sicily.

The "Vengeance" will of course remain at Palermo.

I send by the "Porcupine" three refugees who would undoubtedly have been put to death had they remained at Palermo.

I have urged the Committee as much as possible to avoid the spontaneous assemblage of the Sicilian Parliament, but they are very anxious for this measure.

Inclosure 5 in No. 96.

Memorandum by Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

(Extract.)

Palermo, February 19, 1848.

LORD Minto received on the 17th instant the communication addressed to Mr. Goodwin on the 13th by the General Committee, inviting the interposition of his Lordship for a pacification, and would not have hesitated to proceed immediately to Palermo but for his having failed in obtaining authority from the Neapolitan Government to propose such conditions as are likely to be acceptable.

His Lordship states that the difficulty does not rest with the King, who is most anxious for a reconciliation with his Sicilian subjects and perfectly ready to afford them every satisfaction they could desire, but it is his Ministers who object to further concessions.

Inclosure 6 in No. 96.

M. Stabile to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Eccellenza,

Palermo, 19 Febbrajo, 1848.

IN continuazione della conversazione che ho avuto l'onore di avere poco anzi con vostra Eccellenza, alla presenza di Lord Mount Edgcombe e del Presidente del Comitato Generale, Signor Ruggiero Settimo, mi fo un dovere di porre in iscritto quelle idee che abbiamo discusse, ripetendole doversi considerare questa lettera come l'espressione dell'opinione personale di uomini leali che amano il bene del loro paese, e proclivi allo stesso tempo ad accogliere tutte quelle transazioni che potessero sollecitamente condurci alla migliore conclusione degli affari attuali.

E certo che la Sicilia intera ha domandata la convocazione di un General Parlamento in Palermo, per adattare alle necessità dei tempi la Costituzione del 1812.

Sua Eccellenza Lord Minto si è degnata accettare la mediazione tra la Sicilia ed il Rè di Napoli per venire ad una conciliazione, e tutta la Sicilia e Palermo principalmente aspettari l'arrivo di questo illustre personaggio, la cui mediazione è uno dei più grandi tratti di fortuna che avesse potuto toccare a questa isola.

Ora vostra Eccellenza ci ha questa mattina comunicato un memorandum che dal Ministero Napoletano si è passato a sua Eccellenza Lord Minto, e nel quale si contengono le condizioni del Governo di Napoli.

In queste condizioni ci dice in primo luogo, che la costituzione dee esser la stessa per le due parti dei Reali dominj; ma su questo punto già lo stesso Lord Minto nella copia del memorandum ha fatto le sue sagge osservazioni: cioè, che per la Sicilia varj articoli della Costituzione dovrebbero essere diversi. Inoltre, nella lettera del 12 febbrajo corrente che dal Console Inglese fu comunicata al Comitato Generale, era detto che il Governo di Napoli era disposto a tener conto de' diritti della Sicilia ad una Costituzione ed a quella specialmente del 1812, e che per la composizione delle due Camere dovea aversi rapporto a tale Costituzione.

Non occorre quindi ritorna su questo articolo.

Resta dunque la enumerazione delle materie che potrebbero esser comuni alle due parti dei Reali dominj.

Ora le materie che secondo il memorandum del Governo di Napoli dovrebbero esser comuni alle due parti, e per le quali una Commissione mista dovrebbe decidere in caso di divergenza, son tali che rendono nulla la concessione di un Parlamento separato per la Sicilia, molto più pel modo come la Commissione mista si crederebbe dover esser composta.

Secondo l'opinione mia sarebbe vuota di senso la concessione di un separato Parlamento, qualora le materie comuni tra due Parlamenti Napoletano e Siciliano, non si limitassero solamente che a' seguenti oggetti:

1. La pace e la guerra.

3. Trattati colle Potenze estere, esclusi quelli di Commercio.

3. La Lista Civile nella proporzione delle popolazioni dell' una e dell' altra parte.

4. L'ammontare di tutta la forza di mare e di terra nei due Reali dominj, espressamente dichiarandosi che senza il consenso del Parlamento Siciliano non potrebbero essere introdotte in Sicilia truppe di qualunque altra nazione, neppure Napoletane.

Debbo inoltre aggiungere di essere necessario che il Rappresentante del Rè in Sicilia non debba esser mai un Napolitano, tranne i membri della Famiglia Reale.

Se gli oggetti comuni si limiteranno a questi di sopra indicati, potrebbe la Commissione mista essere composta con un certo senso di ragionevolezza di un numero desugnale di Commissarj de' due Parlamenti.

E superfluo ripetere quanto concerne la Bandiera, poichè l'Eccellenza vostra ci ha assicurato di essere stata adottata anche in Napoli quella a tre colori che noi già abbiamo.

Nè dovrebbe tacersi che il Parlamento di Sicilia sarebbe libero di stabilire ovunque voglia nell' isola il sistema della Scala Franca.

Permesse queste idee, mi permetterà vostra Eccellenza di sommetterle una considerazione di un ordine superiore.

La Sicilia ha tale fiducia nell' amicizia e nella simpatia dell' Inghilterra e nella valevole mediazione di sua Eccellenza Lord Minto, che io sono intimamente convinto che la presenza di questo illustre diplomatico in Palermo, sarebbe il più sicuro ed efficace mezzo per appianare le difficoltà, e far contentare i Siciliani di quelle condizioni che per mezzo di questo celebre uomo di stato si potrebbero solo ottenere.

Quindi se quando anche non si potessero di sua Eccellenza Lord Minto ottenere le cose di minore interesse che dalla Sicilia si domandono, la sua mediazione e la sua presenza in Palermo saranno sempre utile e giovevole tutte le volte che in sortanza si otterrà un separato Parlamento le cui facoltà fossero reali e non illusorie; sia contentato il voto universale di tenersi mente nelle nuove convenzioni agli antichi diritti della Sicilia, e specialmente alla Costituzione del 1812, e sia fissata la base che altre truppe fuori delle Siciliane non entrassero in Sicilia senza il consenso del Parlamento.

Impegno dunque vivamente l'Eccellenza vostra a fare ogni opera per indurre sua Eccellenza Lord Minto a proseguire nella mediazione tanto alacramente intrapresa, ed a venire in Palermo quanto più presto gli fosse possibile.

Accolga l'Eccellenza vostra i maggiori ringraziamenti per la parte tanto importante che ha voluto prendere nelle cose attuali della Sicilia, ed i sentimenti del mio profondo rispetto, &c.

(Firmato)

MARIANO STABILE.

(Translation.)

Palermo, February 19, 1848.

IN continuation of the conversation which I had the honour of holding a short time since with your Excellency in the presence of Lord Mount Edgumbe and the President of the General Committee, Signor Ruggiero Settimo, I hold it my duty to put in writing the ideas which we have discussed, repeating that this letter should be considered as the expression of the personal opinion of loyal men who love the welfare of their country and are at the same time ready to avail themselves of every transaction which may happily conduce to the better conclusion of the present affairs.

It is certain that all Sicily has demanded the convocation of a General Parliament at Palermo to adapt to the necessities of the times the Constitution of 1812.

His Excellency Lord Minto has deigned to undertake the mediation between Sicily and the King of Naples in order to bring about a conciliation, and all Sicily and especially Palermo are anxious for the arrival of this illustrious personage, whose mediation is one of the most fortunate circumstances that could happen to this island.

Your Excellency this morning communicated to us a memorandum from the Neapolitan Ministry to Lord Minto, which contained the terms of the Government of Naples.

In these terms it is in the first place said that the Constitution must be the same for the two portions of the Royal dominions; but on this point Lord Minto has himself in the copy of the memorandum made his wise observations, viz., that for Sicily certain articles of the Constitution should be different. Besides, in his letter of the 12th instant communicated by the English Consul to the General Committee, it was stated that the Government of Naples was disposed to take into consideration the rights of Sicily to a Constitution and to that especially of 1812, and that for the composition of the two Chambers reference should be had to this Constitution.

It is not then necessary to recur to this Article.

There remains the enumeration of the subjects which might be common to the two portions of the Royal dominions.

Now the subjects which according to the memorandum of the Government of Naples should be common to both parts, and by which causes of disagreement are to be decided by a mixed Commission, are such as render a nullity the concession of a separate Parliament for Sicily, and the more so from the manner in which it is believed the Mixed Commission would be constituted.

In my opinion the concession of a separate Parliament would be void of sense, unless the subjects common to the two Parliaments, Neapolitan and Sicilian, were limited solely to the following:

1. Peace and war.
2. Treaties of Foreign Powers, excluding those of commerce.
3. The Civil List in proportion to the population of either party.
4. The assembling of all the Land and Sea Forces in both Royal dominions, it being expressly declared that without the consent of the Sicilian Parliament no troops of any other nation, not even the Neapolitan troops, should be introduced into Sicily.

I should add also as being necessary, that the Representative of the King in Sicily should never be a Neapolitan, members of the Royal Family excepted.

If the common objects are limited to those above indicated, the mixed Commission may with a certain degree of reason be composed of unequal numbers of Commissioners from the two Parliaments.

It is superfluous to recur to the subject of the national flag, as your

Excellency has assured us that the tricolour which we already have has also been adopted at Naples.

Neither must it be passed in silence that the Parliament of Sicily should be at liberty to establish wherever it wishes in this island the system of the *Scala Franca*.

These ideas allowed, will your Excellency permit me to submit a very important consideration.

Sicily has so much confidence in the friendship and sympathy of England and in the valuable mediation of his Excellency Lord Minto, that I am thoroughly convinced the presence of this illustrious diplomatist in Palermo would be the surest and most efficacious means of smoothing difficulties and make the Sicilians contented with the conditions which by means of this celebrated statesman only can they obtain.

Even if Lord Minto cannot obtain the things of minor importance demanded by Sicily, his mediation and presence in Palermo will be always useful and gratifying, provided that at setting out a separate Parliament shall be obtained whose powers shall be real and not illusory; that the universal desire of bearing in mind in the new convention the ancient rights of Sicily, especially the Constitution of 1812, be complied with; and that it be fixed as a basis that no troops other than Sicilians shall enter Sicily without the consent of Parliament.

I beg you then earnestly to use every endeavour to induce his Excellency Lord Minto to proceed in the mediation so readily undertaken, and to come to Palermo as soon as possible.

Will your Excellency accept our best thanks for the important part which you have been kind enough to take in the present affairs of Sicily and the sentiments of the profound respect with which

I have, &c.

(Signed) MARIANO STABILE.

Inclosure 7 in No. 96.

The Earl of Minto to the Earl of Mount Edgumbe.

(Extract.)

Naples, February 20, 1848.

ALL my efforts to obtain more favourable conditions for Sicily have failed here for the moment, and the paper which I inclose contains the resolutions of the Council of State. These I consider so unsatisfactory and so far short of the promises which I had received, that I shall refuse to make myself in any way a party to them. As the Government wishes that they should be submitted to the General Committee, I may possibly consent merely to transmit them to the Consul in order that they may thus reach their destination, there being at present no other channel through which any communication between the General Committee and the Neapolitan Government is open; but I have, before I do even so much, desired to know from the Duke of Serra Capriola whether these Articles are to be considered merely in the light of proposals from this Government open to negotiation and which may be met by counter-proposals from Sicily, or if they are to be understood as the unalterable basis of any arrangement to be treated of.

It is thought by some that the Government felt itself too much committed to its original resolutions to originate any new proposals for larger concessions, but that it is prepared to yield them to the demand of the Sicilians in reply to the present offers. This may or may not be the case, and I cannot venture to give an opinion.

I have no doubt that the "Descartes" will take over the terms offered by the Government, as I presume that the French Ambassador only sends her to put M. Bresson in possession of the state of the question here. The General Committee therefore will have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with them even though nothing should be received from me.

There can be no objection to your privately making known to individuals with whom you are in communication, the Articles which I inclose.

Inclosure 8 in No. 96.

The Earl of Minto to the Earl of Mount Edgumbe.

My dear Lord Mount Edgumbe,

Naples, February 22, 1848.

WITH regard to the essential conditions which it appears will be insisted on in Sicily, those respecting the army are what I should have the least hope of carrying here. I think it not impossible (I no longer venture to say it is probable) that some arrangement might be effected of the Parliamentary question by narrowing the sphere of operations of the Mixed Commission, and I am to see the Duke of Serra Capriola this evening on all these matters. But I begin to think very seriously that there is no intention here of settling the business amicably, and that what has been done and is doing may be intended to give time for hostile operations or foreign assistance. This suspicion prevails extensively too in the public.

I have represented, and shall do so more strongly, that the Sicilians had been induced to suspend the convocation of their Parliament and even their operations against Messina by the hope I held out of an accommodation; but that as I can no longer do this with any degree of confidence, it is not to be expected that they will delay further to take the necessary measures for the success of their cause.

Pray however endeavour to have it well understood that the deposition of the King would be the most fatal step they could take.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 9 in No. 96.

The Duke of Serra Capriola to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Naples, le 19 Février, 1848.

J'AI reçu votre billet d'hier avec le memorandum qui contient vos réflexions sur la résolution du Conseil que j'ai eu l'honneur de faire passer à votre Excellence le 17 de ce mois.

Je n'ai pas manqué de le soumettre aux Ministres du Roi, qui sont d'avis que vous pouvez, Milord, vous servir du memorandum du Conseil avec ou sans le préambule et les réflexions qu'il contient, et qui ne sont que l'explication des motifs qui ont guidé les propositions qu'il renferme, laissant à votre prudence de faire usage de celles qui vous paraîtront utiles dans vos négociations.

Quant aux articles des propositions à faire, le Conseil, vu sa responsabilité, ne peut y rien changer.

Mais comme dans toute négociation il est nécessaire d'entendre les deux parties, il serait juste qu'après avoir affirmé les principales bases de la négociation, on fasse connaître au Gouvernement du Roi, soit par votre Excellence soit par une députation, quelles peuvent être les prétentions ultérieures des Siciliens pour traiter à Naples de ces différences.

Il serait en attendant désirable que pendant ces négociations un armistice soit conclu pour suspendre l'effusion du sang sur les points où se trouvent encore les troupes Royales.

Si votre Excellence ne croit pas pouvoir aller elle-même en Sicile, le Conseil des Ministres aimerait à voir confiées à l'Amiral Parker des négociations aussi délicates.

Veuillez agréer, &c.

(Signé) DUC DE SERRA CAPRIOLA.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 19, 1848.

I HAVE received your note of yesterday with the memorandum containing your sentiments upon the resolution of the Council which I had the honour to forward to your Excellency on the 17th instant.

I have not failed to lay it before the King's Ministers, who are of opinion that you can, my Lord, make use of the memorandum of the Council with or without the preamble and the observations which it

contains, and which are merely an explanation of the motives which influenced the propositions contained in it, leaving to your prudence to employ such of them as shall appear to you useful in your negotiations.

As regards the articles of the propositions to be made, the Council, considering its responsibility, can make no change therein.

But as in every negotiation it is necessary to hear the two parties, it would be right that, after having settled the chief bases of the negotiation, either your Excellency or a deputation should inform the King's Government what the further pretensions of the Sicilians may be, in order to treat at Naples with respect to those differences.

In the meanwhile it would be desirable that pending the negotiations an armistice should be concluded, to stop the effusion of blood on the points where the Royal troops still are.

If your Excellency should consider that you cannot yourself go to Sicily, the Council of Ministers would see with pleasure such delicate negotiations intrusted to Admiral Parker.

Be pleased, &c.

(Signed) DUKE OF SERRA CAPRIOLA.

No. 97.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 3.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 23, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker arrived at this port on Monday last the 21st instant, in command of Her Majesty's squadron, consisting of the vessels of war enumerated in the margin*.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 98.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 27, 1848.

SOME progress has I trust been made towards an accommodation with Sicily, since the date of my last despatches of the 23rd instant.

The commercial, fiscal, and constitutional questions are in a fair train of adjustment; and the only obstacle to a pacification now remaining, is in the demand of the Sicilians that no other than Sicilian troops shall serve in the island without the consent of their Parliament.

This is a *sine quâ non* with them in any negotiation to be proposed, and hitherto I have been unable to obtain the acquiescence of the Neapolitan Government in the demand.

The question is however again to be considered in Council to-day: and as information was yesterday received of the determination of the General Committee to convoke a Sicilian Parliament, I am in hopes that a desire to anticipate this measure may induce the Council to accept the terms which are insisted upon; or possibly to evade the question by leaving it to the future decision of Parliament.

In treating on these subjects it is not so much what may be right and reasonable, as what in a war of angry passions may be practicable, that I have had to consider.

I shall write more fully by the messenger in the course of two or three days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

No. 99.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 23, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a copy of Mr. Goodwin's despatch containing an account of the surrender of the fortress of Catania to the Sicilian forces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

* Hibernia, 104; Trafalgar, 120; Superb, 84. Steam-vessels, Hecate, Bulldog, Porcupine.

Inclosure in No. 99.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, February 18, 1848.

MR. JEANS writes from Catania, under date of 12th of February: "The negotiations which have been going on for the last three days, between General Rossi and the Committee, through Commodore Moore and myself, have been brought to a termination. The castle is to be evacuated by the troops and given up to the Committee on the 14th inst.

"The conditions are, that the troops are to march out of the fort with military honours, and ground their arms in the castle square; cannons, muskets, &c., and all kinds of munitions of war are to be given up in a good state. Vessels are to be found by the Committee for the transport of the troops to Naples. The troops are to swear not to serve against Sicily during the space of one year and a day; personal baggage is to be given up; the sick and wounded to be taken care of and sent to Naples when cured."

Mr. Jeans writes further on the 14th, to say that he has been occupied all day in assisting at the evacuation, having been requested both by the General and the Committee to superintend the delivery of the various stores. A large portion of the troops have embarked and will be off to-morrow. The General has obtained very fair terms, for there were not more than two or three days' provisions in the castle, and he must then have surrendered at discretion. Captain Moore was also present at the evacuation.

Mr. Oates writes thus from Girgenti, under date of 12th of February: "On the 9th 'Te Deum' was sung in the Cathedral to celebrate the taking of the Castellamare. On the same day all the gendarmes and most of the Neapolitan judges and employés embarked for Naples. The troops of the line all took service here."

Mr. Oates writes further on the 14th: "Here everything remains quiet, and the Government is organizing. The Committee have elected provisional judges so discreetly that the choice gives general satisfaction. A mounted company-at-arms has been already formed for this district and a dismounted one for internal security."

The citadel of Messina and the castle of Syracuse are the only places left in possession of the King's troops.

The castles of Melazzo and Agosta have surrendered to the Sicilians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 100.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 23, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note addressed to Her Majesty's Legation in common with the Representatives of the other Powers which signed the Treaty of Vienna, by the Duke of Serra Capriola, in which are enumerated the various Articles of concession yielded by the Government of Naples to the Constitutional party in Sicily.

This note has already reached your Lordship in a shape slightly different, from the Earl of Minto, who has presented to the Neapolitan Government a reply, and thus rendered it superfluous for me to offer any observations on its tenour, until I be honoured by your Lordship's instructions to that effect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 100.

*The Duke of Serra Capriola to Lord Napier.**Napoli, 18 febbrajo, 1848.*

DIVENUTO apertissimo e generale ne' popoli delle Due Sicilie il desiderio di veder nettamente ricomposti gli ordini civili dello Stato sotto la stabil norma di una Costituzione Rappresentativa, Sua Maestà il Rè si degnava di concederla benevolmente, come unico mezzo di pace e di prosperità per tutti: ed avea la soddisfazione di sentirla immediatamente accolta ne' suoi Reali dominj di quà del Faro con la esplosione unanime della più straordinaria gioia e riconoscenza. Ma con profondo dolore del suo animo apprendea la Maestà Sua che ne' suoi Reali dominj di là del Faro erano insorte gravissime dissidenze intorno a taluni principj, su cui la Costituzione suddetta era stata concepita, per cui quella parte del suo reame era miseramente caduta in uno stato deplorabile di commozioni e di perturbamenti. A fin di ristabilire con espedienti conciliativi la tranquillità, non fu perplessa la Maestà Sua in accogliere i buoni uffizj che Lord Minto, Inviato Straordinario di Sua Maestà Britannica, offriva di adoperar cortesemente presso quegli abitanti, per condurli ad un sollecito o ragionevole accordo: e dopo varie conferenze all' uopo, gli si è fatto tenere d'ordine di Sua Maestà il seguente memorandum.

[Here is inserted the Memorandum.—See Inclosure 1 in No. 92.]

E facil cosa il comprendere, che in queste facoltà, di cui si è lasciato a Lord Minto il poter fare quell' uso che nella sua prudenza stimerebbe conveniente, unica mira di Sua Maestà è stata quella di provvedere alla pace ed al benessere de' suoi popoli, e di mantenere a un tempo inviolata ed inviolabile la unità del Reame delle Due Sicilie, sanzionata e garantita alla Maestà Sua per se, suoi eredi e successori, dall' Articolo CIV del Trattato di Vienna del 9 Giugno, 1815, quindi è che laddove ad onta delle sue leali e benefiche intenzioni, voglia darsi altra fallace interpretazione al sudetto Articolo, Sua Maestà non crede poter decidere da se sola una quistione sì grave, e sente il bisogno di interpellarne le Potenze signatarie del Trattato medesimo.

Il Sottoseritto, Ministro Segretario di Stato degli Affari Esteri, Presidente del Consiglio de' Ministri, che per tali considerazioni ha ricevute espressi ordini del suo augusto Sovrano di portare il tutto alla conoscenza di Lord Napier, Incaricato di Affari di Sua Maestà Britannica, nell' adempiere a questo Real comando, trovasi nel dovere di soggiungerle, che Sua Maestà il Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie non sa dubitare affatto che Sua Maestà Britannica, riconoscendo sagge le sue determinazioni per assicurar la tranquillità ed il benessere de' suoi popoli, approverà in pari tempo la sua ferma risoluzione di non alterare in alcun modo la unità e la piena integrità de' dominj del suo regno, e che nelle occorrenze lo sosterrà del suo potente e valevole appoggio.

Il Sottoseritto, &c.

(Firmato)

DUCA DI SERRA CAPRIOLA.

(Translation.)

Naples, February 18, 1848.

THE desire of the public of the Two Sicilies to see the civil institutions of the State reorganized under the stable form of a Representative Constitution having become most clearly expressed, the King has deigned in his benevolence to concede such Constitution as the only means of peace and prosperity for all his subjects, and has had the satisfaction of finding it immediately received in his dominions on this side of the Faro with unanimous sentiments of the greatest joy and gratitude. But with heartfelt pain did His Majesty learn that in his dominions on the other side the Faro grave differences had arisen with respect to certain princi-

ples upon which the said Constitution has been founded, on which account that part of his kingdom had fallen into a deplorable state of commotion and disturbance.

For the purpose of re-establishing tranquillity by conciliatory measures His Majesty did not hesitate to accept the good offices which Lord Minto, &c., kindly offered to use in regard to the inhabitants in question to bring them to a prompt and reasonable agreement, and after various conferences which had been held for that purpose, the following memorandum has been sent to him by order of His Majesty.

[Memorandum.]

It is easy to understand that in conferring these powers upon Lord Minto which he will make such use of as in his prudence he may deem most expedient, the King's only object has been to provide for the peace and well-being of his subjects and at the same time to maintain inviolate and inviolable the unity of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, sanctioned and guaranteed to His Majesty for himself and his heirs and successors by the CIVth Article of the Treaty of Vienna of June 9, 1815. Hence it follows that if in spite of his loyal and beneficent intentions, a different and fallacious interpretation should be give to the said Article, His Majesty does not consider himself able to decide alone so grave a question, and feels it necessary to call for the opinion of the Powers who signed the said Treaty.

The Undersigned, &c., who on this account has received express orders from his August Sovereign to make this matter known to Lord Napier, in fulfilling the King's commands finds it his duty to add that His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies cannot in any way doubt that Her Britannic Majesty, recognizing the prudence of the measures which he has adopted to secure the tranquillity and well-being of his States, will approve at the same time his firm resolution of not altering in any way the unity and full integrity of his dominions, and that should occasion require she will support him by her powerful and valuable aid.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

DUKE OF SERRA CAPRIOLA.

No. 101.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will learn with regret that the fugitive officers of the Neapolitan forces lately defeated in Sicily have circulated rumours injurious to the character of the officers in command of Her Majesty's vessels of war stationed at Palermo, endeavouring to extenuate their own defeat by insinuating that the insurgents obtained active assistance from the British Navy.

I was for some time enabled to pass over such groundless aspersions in silence, but a strong feeling having arisen among the English residents upon the subject, and a distinct assertion having been made to Mr. Beck by Major Steiger of the stipendiary Swiss regiments, to the effect that Her Majesty's ship "Vengeance" acted in concert with the Sicilians, I have felt it my duty to bring the subject under the notice of the Duke of Serra Capriola in the accompanying note.

Major Steiger is on the staff of His Majesty the King, and was dispatched to Palermo on particular service, which renders his statements worthy of more than ordinary consideration.

I must also acquaint your Lordship that in a private conversation with M. Bozzelli, Minister of the Interior, some time ago, his Excellency disclosed that official reports had reached the Neapolitan Government to

the same effect. I recommended his Excellency to speak with caution on such a subject, and contented myself with denying the truth of any such accounts verbally to him and the Duke of Serra Capriola.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Lord Napier to the Duke of Serra Capriola.

Naples, February 21, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to acquaint his Excellency the Duke of Serra Capriola, &c., that he has been informed by Mr. Beek, an English gentleman not unknown to the Government of His Sicilian Majesty, that Major Steiger, a Swiss officer believed to be employed about the person of His Majesty the King, stated to Mr. Beek on the 19th instant, that when he was at Palermo he observed one of Her Britannic Majesty's ships assist the insurrectionary forces by hoisting a signal as an order to begin fighting, and that the people ceased fighting on a signal delivered from the quarter above mentioned.

The Undersigned has the honour to request that his Excellency the Duke of Serra Capriola will inform him whether any similar reports of a nature so injurious to the character of Her Britannic Majesty's service have reached the Neapolitan Government, and if so with whom such reports originate; and he also finds it his duty to request that the above-mentioned Swiss officer Major Steiger may be examined by the competent authority, and the result of such inquiry be communicated to Her Majesty's Mission, in order that rumours so unfounded and defamatory may be stopped.

The Undersigned, &c. .

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 102.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 23, 1848.

M. SCOVAZZO, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, tendered his resignation to His Sicilian Majesty on the 18th instant. His Excellency had for some time previously retained his seat in the Cabinet against his personal conviction, and solely in the hope of moderating the counsels of his colleagues regarding the affairs of Sicily, of which country he is a native.

M. Scovazzo was received by the King this morning in a private audience, when he urged upon His Majesty the necessity of satisfying the demands of the Sicilian people, and thus terminating a civil war which might endanger the peace and liberties of the whole of Italy. The King replied "It shall be settled," and dismissed him in a gracious manner.

M. Scovazzo addressed the accompanying letter to His Sicilian Majesty on this occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 102.

M. Scovazzo to the King of Naples.

Sire,

Napoli, 18 Febbrajo, 1848.

POICHE piacque a Vostra Maestà assumermi a l'alto onore di sedere ne' vostri consigli, ben io sentiva di quanto troverci duro di difficoltà il gravissimo ufficio.

E nondimeno rispetto da un lato alla vostra volontà sovrana che mi fu sempre un debito sacro, e riconoscenza a tanta fiducia in tempi sì pieni di pericoli, e dall' altro lato, il lungo vezzo di non prender paura di alcun pubblico ufficio, cui volessi buon volere e civil coraggio, e speranza forse ambiziosa di potere umilmente suggerire una tal formola di politica conciliante in una e la interezza del principato, e le ragioni e i maggiori interessi de' popoli che sono sommo voto della Maestà Vostra, mi furono complessa ragione a che io, benchè gran tempo infermo, mi sobbarcassi a tal soma, cui non prevedi che gli omeri non mi sarebbero uguali.

Con questo animo, spregiando le ipocrisie di una popolarità da trivio, durai finora per una strategia cui la situazione delicatissima mi comandava, a non portare rimorso di leggerezza, in una causa che pareami giustissima, anche e primamente nel maggiore riguardo alla prerogativa Reale.

Ma ora le cose sono a termini da farmi pienamente convinto, che per me solo Siciliano fra sette, la posizione non possa or mai più tenersi, senza ch'io scapiti dell'onore, per lo quale gitterei prima la vita, e senza farmi ingombro a una politica, cui nella mia lealtà non seppi sottoscrivere, e su la quale ormai più che Italia, l'Europa ci guarda, e la storia severa giudicherà. Vostra Maestà che si è messa con tutto l'animo, nelle più larghe vie costituzionali, e ne insegna maestro a coloro che più ne seppero, vedrà come sia una maniera di dogma, in tal forma di governi, che un Ministro di Rè Costituzionale, se solo sempre come io sono nelle quistioni ardenti e vitali, debba ritirarsi. E questo umilmente supplico Vostra Maestà mi conceda, anche a mercè di presso a trent' anni di servizii, forse non inutili, sempre fedeli, nè inonorati.

D. V. M.
(Firmato) G. SCOVAZZO.

(Translation.) •

Sire,

Naples, February 18, 1848.

WHEN it pleased Your Majesty to confer upon me the high honour of sitting in your Councils, deeply did I feel how replete with difficulties would be that important office.

But nevertheless respect on the one hand for your sovereign commands, which I have always held as a sacred duty, and gratitude at finding so much confidence placed in me in times so fraught with danger, and on the other hand the long habit of not shrinking from the responsibility of any public office which needed the exercise of good will and civil courage, together with the hope, perhaps an ambitious one, of being able humbly to suggest some formula of policy which might unite in one the integrity of the Throne and the rights and best interests of the people, which forms the object of Your Majesty's desire, furnished me (although suffering from lengthened illness) with ample reasons for bowing myself to the burden which I did not then foresee that my shoulders would be unable to bear.

With this view, despising the hypocrisy of a trivial popularity, have I hitherto persevered (adopting a line of conduct which my delicate position required of me) in not lightly abandoning a cause which seemed to me most just and most particularly essential to the Royal prerogative.

But now matters have assumed such a colour as fully to convince me that in my case, being the only Sicilian out of seven, the position is no longer tenable without tarnishing my honour, to preserve which I would sacrifice my life, and without proving an obstacle to a policy to which I could not conscientiously adhere, and in regard to which at this moment not only Italy but Europe has its eyes upon us, and the severe scrutiny of history will pronounce judgment.

Your Majesty who has determinedly set forth in the broad path of Constitutional Government, and can instruct those who have hitherto been the most skilled therein, will understand that it is an established principle in such forms of Government, that the Minister of a Constitutional King if always alone as I am in questions of vital importance, must resign, and

this I humbly beg Your Majesty's permission to do even as a reward for nearly thirty years of service, perhaps not useless but at least faithful and not unhonoured.

(Signed) G. SCOVAZZO.

No. 103.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 27, 1848.

SEVERAL Sicilian officers of distinction employed at Naples have refused to swear to the Constitution promulgated by the King, or have done so with reservations.

General Statella, Governor of the city of Naples, a gentleman of a family so notoriously loyal as to have incurred a certain degree of odium in their own country, has taken the oath under protest, of which the following is a translation:—

"But I formally and devoutly protest that my present oath does not bind my natural civil and indestructible obligations, nor my rights of nationality towards the Kingdom of Sicily, my native country, and the Constitution of the said kingdom."

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 104.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

(Extract.)

Naples, February 27, 1848.

M. ———, either then or subsequently added that there was an article in the Constitution of 1812 (of which I inclose copy herewith) giving power to Parliament in certain contingencies of declaring the Throne vacant.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Articles 15 and 17 of the Chapter in the Sicilian Constitution relative to the Succession of the Throne.

ART. 15. Il Rè di Sicilia non potrà per qualunque sia si cagione allontanarsi dal regno senza il consenso del Parlamento. Ogni Rè che abbandonasse il regno senza il detto consenso, o che prolungasse la sua dimora fuori dell' isola al di là del tempo accordatogli dal Parlamento, non avrà più diritto a regnare in Sicilia, e da quel momento salirà al Trono o il suo successore, se ne avrà, o la nazione eleggerà il suo nuovo Rè.

Veto in quanto alla facoltà di allontanarsi. Dovendosi in quel caso unicamente stabilire con il consenso del Parlamento, da chi e con quali condizioni nella sua assenza dovranno esercitarsi le facoltà datogli dalla Costituzione.

ART. 17. Se il Rè di Sicilia riacquisterà il Regno di Napoli, o acquisterà qualunque altro regno, dovrà mandarvi a regnare il suo figlio primogenito, o lasciare detto suo figlio in Sicilia con cederli il regno; dichiarandosi da oggi innanzi il detto Regno di Sicilia indipendente da quello di Napoli e da qualunque altro regno o provincia.

Placet per l'indipendenza: tutto il dippiù resta a stabilirsi dal Rè e dal suo primogenito alla pace generale chi della loro famiglia debba regnarvi.

(Translation.)

ART. 15. The King of Sicily cannot on any pretext leave the kingdom without the consent of the Parliament. Any King who shall abandon the kingdom without the said consent, or who may prolong his absence from the island beyond the time accorded him by the Parliament, shall no longer have a right to reign in Sicily, and from that moment his heir if he have any shall ascend the Throne, or the nation shall elect its new King.

Veto, so far as regards the power of leaving the kingdom. In the case of his doing so, it shall be sufficient to establish with the consent of Parliament, by whom and upon what conditions the powers entrusted to him by the Constitution are to be exercised in his absence.

Art. 17. If the King of Sicily shall reacquire the Kingdom of Naples or shall become possessed of any other kingdom, he must send his eldest son to reign there or leave him in Sicily and give up that kingdom to him, as from this day forward the Kingdom of Sicily is declared independent of that of Naples as well as of any other kingdom or province.

Placet, so far as regards the independence. The rest must be arranged between the King and his eldest son as to which of their family had best reign there, when the general peace shall be concluded.

No. 105.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 29, 1848.

IN the absence of official accounts from Messina I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith extracts of private letters recounting the various conflicts and bombardments of which that city has been the scene.

There is said to be telegraphic intelligence this evening to the effect that an armistice has been established between the contending parties.

In consequence of the silence of Her Majesty's Consul and the reported destruction of British property, I have addressed Mr. Barker the accompanying letter requesting him to enter into the fullest detail of the late events.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

Extracts of Private Letters respecting the Bombardment of Messina.

Mr. Sanderson to Mr. Turner.

Messina, February 24, 1848, Ringo, 7 P.M.

WE have had three days' anxious time. On Tuesday morning, 22nd instant, at 8 A.M. the Messinese opened a battery of heavy guns on the fort at the end of the Marina, and in one hour made two immense breaches and rushed in and took it by storm, making 120 prisoners and capturing 35 pieces of cannon most of heavy calibre, with a good supply of material and ammunition; and, wonderful to say, the Sicilians only lost 2 killed and 5 wounded, the Neapolitans 5 killed and 12 wounded; at the same time the Terra Nova was vigorously attacked; the battery, the barracks, the arsenal and Porto Franco were captured with very little loss of life, but I am sorry to say that during the bombardment from the citadel on Tuesday night the Porto Franco took fire in the warehouses of Mr. Smithson, nearly full of manufactures, and the whole were burnt and

destroyed. By the aid of Captain Codrington and the ships of war the fire was subdued. The bombardment from the citadel and Salvatore continued forty-eight hours, night and day, doing much injury to the city without loss of life and only a few persons wounded.

The firing ceased at 3 p.m. to-day, and the citadel has just sent a flag of truce on board the "Thetis" (7 p.m.); if in time I will inform you of the meaning of it. Great preparations are making to attack and storm the citadel, yet it will require perhaps some days before the assailants are prepared. Never was more daring courage than has been exhibited.

9 p.m. Mr. R. Barker has just returned from the Comitato to whom he carried a letter from General Pronio, the new commander of the King's forces in the citadel, who arrived here yesterday with steamers and reinforcements from Naples, stating his surprise at finding Messina bombarded on his arrival, though he himself kept it up violently all last night and the greater part of this day. He proposed to the Comitato to accept the Constitution offered by the King which had been approved of by all the Italian States and so settle the matter amicably, otherwise he would use all the means and force in his power against them. A reply is to be given to-morrow which will I fear seal the destruction of this beautiful city and all it contains; and many millions of ounces will it require to replace the enormous destruction of property which must ensue. God grant that it is only a threat; be it so or not I clearly see that it will have no effect on the Sicilians, who are said to be sending men from all parts of the island with money to support them with. How is it possible in this civilized age that such a scene can be enacted?—Thus Messina is to become the battle field of all Sicily, and the vast numbers of its innocent and peaceable inhabitants are to become victims and witness the destruction of their families and property. If they must fight, why not confine their fire upon the parts they are attacked from; it is not the city of Messina and its inhabitants alone that are engaged in the sad struggle, it is all Sicily; then why destroy the city of Messina and the large amount of foreign property in it, principally British? it looks very like a hatred to our country. I will still hope it is only a threat and shall be glad if I can tell you so in my next.

The German houses are the most extensively exposed, their warehouses in the Porto Franco full of British manufactures and their portfolios full of bills for goods sold during the last six months, and nobody pays; if the present state of things continues and the place should be destroyed, it will be the total ruin of nearly all the foreign and native establishments in Messina.

10 p.m. The bombardment from the citadel has again commenced, so I suppose we shall have another restless night.

Mr. Smithson to Mr. Paterson.

Naples, February 28, 1848.

I THIS moment received a letter from Mr. Joseph Smithson, one of the principal British merchants in Messina, dated Messina, 24th February, and beg to wait upon you with a copy thereof.

"We have had 32 hours' bombardment, shells have been thrown into my warehouses in the Porto Franco which have reduced every one of them to a cinder; there can be no doubt of my recovering the amount from the Neapolitan Government, otherwise the privileges of the Porto Franco of Messina are a mockery.

Messina, February 26, 1848.

"P.S.—More fighting yesterday afternoon; it is calculated than 2000 shells have been fired from the forts; Porto Franco has been burning in two places since yesterday afternoon, so you may judge what havoc is going on there.

(Signed)

JOSEPH SMITHSON."

I request you will have the goodness to lay this letter before the English authorities, as such conduct was never heard of in any civilized country; it is only Englishmen and English property that suffer.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) GUSTAVE PATERSON.

From Messrs. W. Sanderson & Sons.

Messina, February 26, 1848.

THINGS remain here in the same state since the taking by the people of the arsenal and Fort Porto Real Basso.

The citadel continues to fire almost without intermission, not confining itself to those parts where the Messinese are making their preparations.

The Porto Franco has been twice set fire to by their shells and it is feared that it will be entirely destroyed with all the valuable property it contains. Should the Messinese plant guns on the Marina, as is said, we must expect a more destructive bombardment of the town than anything we have yet experienced.

The military made a sortie yesterday from the citadel without however effecting anything; they received reinforcements lately from Naples by the steam-frigates, and as the Messinese seem determined not to give way we must expect to witness a bloody struggle, the issue of which it is impossible to foretell.

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

Lord Napier to Consul Barker.

Sir,

Naples, February 29, 1848.

NO official account of the late events at Messina having reached Her Majesty's Legation, although various private letters have been received at Naples containing intelligence of deep importance to English interests, I have to recall your attention to my instruction of January 14th, by which you were directed to report to Her Majesty's Legation with all possible diligence and regularity on the course of political events within the limits of your Consular jurisdiction.

I am sensible that you may have been actively occupied by various duties which may have fallen upon you during the late emergency, but I must request you will lose no time in giving Her Majesty's Legation information on the following points:—

You will have the goodness to state

1st. The dates and duration of the several bombardments to which the city of Messina has been exposed since the 22nd instant, specifying with which party the active hostilities commenced on each occasion.

2nd. Whether the fire of the citadel has been pointed exclusively or principally on the quarters or positions occupied by the Sicilian forces; or has it been directed indiscriminately upon all parts of the city; or did it seem to be levelled particularly and maliciously at the residences and warehouses of British or other foreign merchants and residents?

3rd. Was the Porto Franco or its vicinity occupied by the Sicilian forces as a point of offensive operations against the citadel, or did the insurgents manifest an intention so to occupy it, or is the Porto Franco in the line of fire from the citadel towards some other position beyond or above it, so that it was unavoidably or accidentally set on fire, or was it wantonly and deliberately burned by the garrison of the fortress?

4th. You will forward to Her Majesty's Legation an enumeration and estimate of the various losses incurred by British subjects by the burning of the Porto Franco and in general by the fire of the citadel and other forts occupied by the King's troops, detailing as well as you may be able the circumstances under which such losses occurred.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 106.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, March, 2, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, containing some particulars respecting the presence at Palermo of an Austrian frigate which subsequently arrived at Naples, and conveying further information of the surrender of the Castle of Catania.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 106.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, February 22, 1848.

THE appearance of the "Guerriera" Austrian frigate, which arrived here on the 17th, having caused a great excitement in the public mind, I made the fact known to the Austrian Consul-General in a friendly spirit which was kindly taken. M. de Wallenberg, anxious to prevent disturbance, has consented to send the frigate to Naples on Captain Lushington's supplying him with fresh provisions, of which she has urgent need.

The "Guerriera" is now getting under weigh and will speedily set sail.

A commission of five, three of whom are littérateurs and two lawyers, has lately been appointed to collect materials for a report to the Committee on the expediency of calling Parliament together or convoking a Constitutional Assembly in case the proposed mediation should unhappily not take place. The labours of this commission will take some time before they are brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

In the meantime the mediation is the object of public anxiety.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 106.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, February 24, 1848.

IN continuation of my despatch of 18th February I have the honour to report that the Castle of Catania was evacuated on the 15th instant, and that the stores and ammunition were handed over to the Local Committee in the presence of Commander Moore and Vice-Consul Jeans by whom the treaty had been negotiated. On the evening of the 17th the garrison embarked for Naples under the command of General Rossi. The prisoners of war taken in action by the Sicilians remain at Catania awaiting the decision of the Provisional Government.

The statement in my despatch of the 18th instant that the troops would march out with all the honours of war proves on inquiry to be incorrect. The garrison marched out with their baggage only, the officers alone retaining their swords, and grounded their arms on the piazza, piling their corps by corps. The terms of surrender were highly favourable to General Rossi, who having provisions for only a few days more, must needs have surrendered at the end of that time to a numerous force well armed, provided with cannon, supplied with ammunition and eager for decisive action. A general assault would probably have caused the garrison to be put to the sword in the heat of the battle; nor was this the only danger which hung over the garrison; three mines, one of which

was found to have reached the castle walls, had been worked by the besiegers. The fortress was no longer tenable, and surrender was necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 107.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 2, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith two despatches from Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," to Sir William Parker and General Pronio, giving more regular information of the late events at Messina than can be gathered from the extracts of private letters which I ventured to submit to your Lordship in my despatch of the 29th ultimo.

By subsequent rumours and uncertain intelligence it appears too probable that the Porto Franco has continued to suffer from the fire of the citadel and that a vast destruction of British merchandise has taken place.

Under these apprehensions it becomes a matter of great importance to ascertain and establish whether Her Majesty's Government will be justified in demanding an indemnification from that of His Sicilian Majesty; and though I shall not deem myself warranted in making a categorical demand for reimbursement without more detailed intelligence of the circumstances under which the conflagration occurred and without your Lordship's orders, it may become necessary for me to put in some protest by way of reserving such a right to Her Majesty's Government and adducing reasons for the same, for the British merchants have already begun to betray a great and a just resentment of the reckless treatment to which their property and interests have been exposed.

I believe the general bombardment of the city of Messina to be abstractedly justifiable by the laws of war. At least it does not appear in theory unreasonable that when a town in revolt is occupied in its whole extent by an armed force which draws its reinforcements and resources from every quarter and every class, the power in possession of the fortress should use all its means of offence against the community by which it is attacked, due notice having been given to foreigners. It is evident however that in the application of this rule peculiar regard ought to be had to circumstances, and that in the present case the Neapolitan Government had every motive to avoid the exercise of such a cruel right. For the previous bombardments both of Palermo and Messina had not succeeded as a method of coercion; the insurgent force had not been thus subdued or intimidated; and consequently the repetition of a barbarous and ineffectual act was not in humanity or policy to be vindicated; and again, while negotiations were being carried on at the capital under the auspices of a mediation invoked for the purpose of producing conciliation and peace, it was certainly advisable, even under strong provocation and in repulsing force by force, to avoid having recourse to an expedient which more than any other was calculated to exasperate passion and to inflict injury on innocent parties.

But, my Lord, whether Her Majesty's Government may consider the Government of Naples justifiable or not in the bombardment of the city of Messina generally, I think that the intentional burning of the Porto Franco was quite indefensible, unless that establishment or its immediate vicinity were occupied as a point of attack, for the Porto Franco being principally composed of warehouses belonging to foreign traders and being filled with their goods, cannot be considered as affording shelter or resources or assistance to the insurgent population of the city, even if it contained provisions or munitions of war the property of foreigners who sold such munitions (for the liberty of trade has never been suspended), and the Porto Franco must therefore be held exempt from that liability to destruction to which a rigid interpretation of the laws of war might condemn

even the dwellings of private citizens. Nor is it sufficient to plead that the foreign merchants had liberty to remove their property to places of safety, for such an operation could perhaps not be effected in regard to objects of great bulk and value without serious expenditure and damage, and Captain Codrington distinctly states that permission to do so was refused.

Should it therefore prove on further investigation that the Porto Franco was wantonly and intentionally set on fire by the garrison of the citadel of Messina, and that there existed no military necessity for such an act, I shall protest against it and reserve to Her Majesty's Government the right to demand such indemnification as they may deem due to the injured parties.

In anticipation of subsequent disasters and in consequence of the previous and slighter bombardment, I addressed to the Duke of Serra Capriola the accompanying protest on the 1st February, founded on sufficient warning not having been given by the military authorities to foreigners on that occasion.

Her Majesty's Consul had previously addressed the Intendente of Messina in the same sense, as your Lordship will observe by the inclosed letter signed by Mr. Barker in common with the Consuls of other foreign Powers, and the representations of Captain Codrington to General Cardamone had been most judicious and unremitting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 107..

Captain Codrington to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Thetis," off Messina, February 24, 1848.

I SUBJOIN for your information the following account of the events which have occurred in Messina since I had last the honour of waiting on you when you passed through the Faro on the 14th instant.

That evening I waited on the General and also on the Comitato, and according to your desire I communicated to each party the contents of your letter to me of that day's date, and also of one from Lord Minto to the British Consul at Palermo dated the 12th instant; and subsequently I transmitted to them an Italian translation of both documents.

These certainly had a pacific effect at the time, but towards the end of that week various reports reached Messina that Lord Minto had not been able to obtain from the Neapolitan Government the powers necessary for him to undertake his proposed mission. The war party amongst the insurgents consequently became stronger, and on the evening of the 18th (Friday) the Comitato sent me notice that they intended to terminate the state of truce at 5 P.M. next day.

During the next forenoon the whole of the merchant shipping as well as the foreign men-of-war removed out of the harbour to an indifferent anchorage about a mile to the northward of the entrance.

Whether the means of the insurgents were not then sufficiently prepared or that when the protecting screen of foreign shipping was withdrawn, the formidable line of batteries on the opposite side of the harbour seemed too strong for them, no attack was then made, and Sunday also passed away quietly, though the insurgents continued their preparations against the Fort Real Basso and against the position of the Arsenal and Terra Nova.

On Monday 21st, knowing that all was ready and that Fort Real Basso would fall as surely as it was attacked, I made one more endeavour to preserve peace by bringing the parties to a conference in my cabin; after considerable discussion this finally failed.

The General was brought to allow of the withdrawal of the troops from Real Basso and the lines of Terra Nova, leaving only a small guard at each place, but he required time and means to obtain the King's authority for doing so.

I was prepared in consequence of his request to have detached the "Gladiator" to Naples with his letters on this business; but in consequence of the decided adverse feeling in the great body of the insurgents the Comitato subsequently broke off the negotiations, sending notice very honourably at the same time to the General as well as to all others concerned, that hostilities would be commenced next morning.

During the night the insurgents threw up a breaching battery against the back of the Fort Real Basso, placing it at the corner of a neighbouring street where it was covered from the fire of San Salvador on the opposite side of the water. It was armed with two long 36-pounders, and about 7½ A.M. while the fort and the neighbouring houses exchanged a fire of musketry, the battery opened at about a hundred yards' distance against a weaker part of the wall.

A breach was soon made, and the ditch having been partially filled up the fort was gallantly and successfully stormed by the insurgents in spite of the flanking shell firing of San Salvador, about an hour after they first commenced action.

The good conduct of the insurgents after their victory was as conspicuous as their courage and good management in the attack. In every instance their prisoners have been saved and well treated and their wounded enemies attended in their hospitals in the same manner as their own wounded.

While this struggle was going on the insurgents had attacked the position of the Terra Nova, and as the troops remaining there retreated rather precipitously after a faint resistance, the insurgents pressed on, and making their way into the lines were soon in possession of the whole position including the arsenal.

Visiting the latter place myself with Captain Robb a few hours afterwards we were quite surprised at seeing the quantity of warlike stores, including a pile of heavy guns (not mounted) which the troops had left behind them, and which will of course be turned to account by their opponents.

The troops were now confined to the citadel and Fort Salvador, and during the rest of the day after their discomfiture there were no further hostilities.

With reference to future mercantile claims for indemnification I will mention that during the contest a part of the Porto Franco (or Government bonded warehouse) occupied by the merchandise of Mr. Smithson, an English merchant, was set on fire by a shell distinctly from the citadel and burnt with its contents. And it was only by the exertions of the insurgents aided by those of the foreign men-of-war here at present, that the fire was extinguished in the night without having spread to other and more valuable deposits. I have since seen several other shells from the citadel strike it.

In the forenoon of the next day (Wednesday 23rd) the United States' ship "Princeton" came into the harbour for a few hours, Captain Robb and myself being on board of her. My intention was, now that there was a satisfactory line of demarcation between the parties, to endeavour to re-establish peaceable relations between them.

Suddenly without the least warning and with no apparent cause, the citadel and Fort Salvador opened a fire of shot and shell on the town, directing their missiles sometimes at particular points of the Marina and its houses and sometimes at more distant places.

Being at that time in a most favourable position in the centre of the harbour we could not make out what had induced the General to recommence a bombardment or what object he had in firing at the town.

By personal inspection as well as by careful inquiries I have ascertained that there were no commencement of batteries to induce him to fire for their destruction. This fire of heavy guns was continued without intermission during that day, through the whole of last night and great part of this day, ceasing temporarily only this afternoon; and up to this moment I cannot make out any motive or justification in policy or warfare for the renewed bombardment. It has added a deeper intensity to the aversion of all classes of the Sicilians to the Neapolitan army and to the Government; and as in their participation of this feeling the other towns of Sicily

are sending succours to Messina for the great struggle which they expect to be fought here for Sicily. I do not at present see how affairs are to be brought to a peaceable settlement here.

Yesterday three Neapolitan men-of-war steamers arrived from the northward and communicated with the back of the citadel, landing some artillerymen and also General Pronio, who comes to replace General Cardamone in the command of the King's forces.

By report and by the tenor of a letter he has just sent to the Comitato, his line of conduct is, it is said, to tend still more to severity than that of General Cardamone, a course which will probably under present circumstances put the climax to the series of erroneous measures which have here been prejudicial to the Royal cause.

It is probable that the preparations of the insurgents will be completed about Saturday, so that they will be enabled to begin their fire on that day or soon after.

The citadel is so strong that if the troops stand firm and are well commanded I don't think the insurgents will be enabled to take it; but where as in this case a whole nation is unanimous and are all zealously working for one object, while their opponents are in a very different condition, it would not surprise me to see a different result come to pass.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

H. J. CODRINGTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 107.

Captain Codrington to General Pronio.

Sir,

"Thetis," Messina, February 26, 1848.

YESTERDAY at half-past II A. M. I received your Excellency's reply*, dated on that day, to my letter to you of the 24th†, representing the fact of the citadel under your orders having opened its fire on the insurgents while a boat that you had sent to me with a flag of truce was still on its way to me. It is not for me to remark on your Excellency's explanation, beyond stating that I still remain of opinion as before on that subject.

With reference to your Excellency's second letter of that date (25th)‡ I have some remarks to make. On receiving a verbal message from you, through the Neapolitan officer, Lieutenant Acton, expressing your earnest desire to come to amicable terms with the insurgents, and requesting me to endeavour to arrange on board of this ship a conference between the Comitato on one hand, and certain military and naval officers on the other hand, to be deputed by you, I at once acceded to your wish, made the necessary arrangements for it with Lieutenant Acton, and the British Consul at my request went to the Comitato for a similar purpose. I followed him on shore and was myself in the town, trusting that a regard to good faith and to the mission on which you had employed the services and character of the British flag would have prevented you from recommencing hostilities while you were requesting me to bring about a meeting for peace.

Being in the neighbourhood of the Piazza Austria at the time I can testify to the little expectation on the part of the people and their indifferent preparations at the time for the sudden sortie of the troops under your command from the citadel.

The letter informed me that as the insurgents had thrown up two batteries you intended to use all the means at your disposal to destroy them, but you do not mention the fact that you had previously thrown up on the Terra Nova, outside of the entrance of the citadel, a strong field-work armed with two guns, much more formidable, you as a military officer must be well aware, to the insurgents, than their rude unskilful attempts can be to such a work as the citadel.

* See Inclosure 4 in No. 116.

† See Inclosure 3 in No. 116.

‡ See Inclosure 6 in No. 116.

Finally, I must remark that this letter nominally announcing to me your Excellency's intention of recommencing action, was delivered to an officer of this ship then on duty near you, while he was in the citadel itself, at half-past 5 p. m., whereas the sortie under your orders had already been carried into effect at half-past 3 p. m., and as another officer had only just left the citadel there would have been every means for an earlier communication.

I am at a loss how to reconcile all this with the good faith that I had a right to expect, and therefore while I still am ready to be the means of transmitting to and from your Excellency and the Comitato all written communications, I will not receive verbal ones, nor in any way personally commit my own character or that of the flag I serve under, in negotiations which repeated experience has convinced me are never likely to be faithfully carried out to a satisfactory conclusion.

It is in this spirit that in reply to a strong representation of the Consuls and merchants respecting the present conflagration of their property in the Porto Franco, I have declined participating in their communication to your Excellency, though I readily forward it to you in safety. Indeed I look upon that matter as one much more for your Excellency's consideration than that of the foreign merchants, inasmuch as the safety of that property is guaranteed by Treaties with His Majesty the King of Naples, on whom therefore the loss will fall, and as we have distinctly seen that the fire in the Porto Franco has each time been occasioned by the shells from the citadel.

Those gentlemen, as I can testify, have repeatedly endeavoured by every means in their power, but in vain, to obtain from Excellency's predecessor, the permission to remove to a safer locality the great quantity of very valuable property, the danger to which was well foreseen from the commencement; but now that a great part has already been destroyed by the fire from the citadel I cannot myself recommend to them any proceedings likely to diminish the responsibility of the Government of His Majesty the King of Naples or the officers acting under their orders.

With reference to the paragraph of your letter informing me that you will stop firing as soon as I inform you that the arrangements for a meeting are complete, I have to inform you that when the firing has ceased, and not before, will I ever even transmit any communications.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. J. CODRINGTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 107.

Lord Napier to the Duke of Serra Capriola.

Naples, February 1, 1848.

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, has the honour to state to his Excellency the Duke of Serra Capriola, &c., that he has received from the officer in command of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," at present stationed at Messina, an official relation addressed to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, extract of which is inclosed herewith in translation, from which it appears that on the 29th of last month that city was made the object of a general bombardment directed from the citadel and forts and from the Neapolitan steam-vessel of war "Carlo III."

The Undersigned considering that this act of deplorable severity was perpetrated by the military authorities of Messina in defiance of a promise given by the General Commandant to the officer of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" that no bombardment should take place without due warning to foreign residents, which was not given, and that if it became inevitable, the fire should only be directed against points occupied by insurgent parties at posts of offence, which was not observed, and that General Cardamone did not interfere to arrest the measures of his subordinates, which he might easily have done, hereby holds the Neapolitan

Government responsible for all prejudice or damage that British subjects may have suffered in their persons or property by such bombardment, and reserves to Her Britannic Majesty's Government a full right to claim indemnification for the same.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 107.

Protest of the Consular Body at Messina against the Bombardment.

Signor Intendente,

Messina, 26 Gennaio, 1848.

DAL di lei ufficio in data di jeri diretto ai Sottoscritti rispettivamente, si rileva quanto prosiegue a scrivere il Signor Generale Comandante le armi, a proposito della garanzia offerta ai Consoli e sudditi delle nazioni unite con vincoli di amicizia al Governo di Sua Maestà.

Lasciando ad ognuno de' Sottoscritti la cura di riferire separatamente sulle domande del Signor Generale Comandante le armi, essi credono loro dovere di protestare collettivamente contro l'interpretazione che esso Signor Generale sembra dare agli Articoli 110, 123, della Legge del 16 Gennaio, 1831, alla quale, stando all' ufficio del Signor Intendente del 12 corrente, egli si è riferito per motivare la sua risoluzione di dichiarare la città in istato di assedio appena che succedessero de' disordini clamorosi.

Si rileva dalle parole del Signor Generale, citati nel di lei ufficio di jeri, che egli intende di gettare dei proiettili sopra questa bella città indifesa, aperta, e di bombardarla. Se, per giustificare un atto così barbaro e violento, il Signor Generale si riferisce alle sue istruzioni particolari, i Sottoscritti non possono che protestare con tutta forza come da ora protestano anticipatamente, a' nomi de' loro Governi, contro un atto simile, indegno di una nazione civilizzata, e rendono responsabile il Signor Generale ed il Governo del Rè di tutto e qualunque danno che ne potrebbe derivare ai sudditi rispettivi, tanto direttamente che indirettamente, sia nelle persone, sia nelle sostanze mobili o immobili.

Se però il Signor Generale per motivare la dichiarazione in istato di assedio di questa città si riferisce per come si è riferito alla Legge del 16 Gennaio, 1831, i Sottoscritti non capiscono come il Signor Generale ha potuto congetturare il dritto di bombardare una città indifesa, mentre che una dichiarazione in istato di assedio, innanzi di esigere o giustificare un bombardamento nel significativo accettato da tutte le nazioni civilizzate, non ha oltre conseguenza che quelle descritti con molto esattezza e dettaglio nella medesima legge summentovate agli articoli susseguenti, quali escludono interamente l'idea di riprimere le sedizioni in una città aperta con gli orrori di un bombardamento.

La preghiamo accensarci la ricevuta della presente protesta, ed abbiamo l'onore, &c.

(Translation.)

Signor Intendente,

Messina, January 26, 1848.

BY your official letter of yesterday's date addressed to us the Undersigned respectively, we are made acquainted with the tenor of the communications of the General commanding the forces, respecting the guarantee offered to the Consuls and subjects of those nations which are connected with His Majesty's Government by bonds of alliance.

The Undersigned, reserving to each of their body the office of answering separately the questions of the General Commandant, consider it their duty collectively to protest against the interpretation which the General appears to give to the 110th and 123rd Articles of the Law of January 16, 1831, upon which, according to your official letter of the 12th instant, he founded his resolution of declaring the city in a state of siege as soon as any tumultuous disorders should take place;

It appears from the words of the General, quoted in your letter of yesterday's date, that he intends to discharge missiles upon this beautiful city, although undefended and exposed, and to bombard it.

If in justification of so violent and barbarous an act the General appeals to his own private instructions, the Undersigned cannot do otherwise than protest with all their force as they now do in anticipation, and they hold the General and the King's Government responsible for any loss which made be suffered by the nations which they represent, whether directly or indirectly, in their persons or in their property, whether moveable or immoveable.

But if the General refers, as he has already done, to the Law of January 16, 1831, as a cause for his declaring the city in a state of siege, the Undersigned cannot imagine how the General can have supposed himself to have the right to bombard an undefended city, because a declaration of a state of siege, far from requiring or justifying a bombardment according to the customs of all the civilized nations, entails no other consequences than those expressed with much exactness and detail in the following articles of the above-mentioned law, which are entirely foreign to the idea of repressing sedition in an exposed city by the horrors of a bombardment.

We beg you to acknowledge the receipt of this protest and remain, &c.

No. 108.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 6, 1848.

PRINCE CARIATI has not yet succeeded in forming an Administration. The official business continues to be discharged by the former Ministers. It is generally believed that the latter will return to power with some modifications.

I saw M. Bozzelli last night and urged his Excellency strongly to accede to the proposals of the Earl of Minto for the pacification of Sicily.

Tranquillity is maintained at Palermo, and the convocation of the Sicilian Parliament by the General Committee has given satisfaction. The election for the University has already taken place, and its choice has fallen on Professors Amari and Ugdulena; the former a patriotic historian, the latter an eloquent preacher.

The last intelligence from Messina is that the garrison is confined within the limits of the citadel, and batteries armed with fifteen mortars and about twelve heavy guns were ready to open on the fortress this morning.

The declaration of a Republic in France has not yet caused a sensible reaction in Naples. The news has probably not yet reached the mass of the people, but the Earl of Minto is engaged in urging the Government, by the cogent argument of such a catastrophe, to yield in time to the claims of Sicily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 109.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 28, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 16th instant, it may be necessary that I should explain the reasons which on my arrival here led me to consider a legislative union of the Two Sicilies as wholly impracticable at present.

There would I believe have been but little difficulty in the formation

of a Parliament with due regard to the peculiar circumstances of the two countries. It is probable that a lower electoral qualification might have been established for Sicily than for the Neapolitan territory, and that an hereditary Peerage might also have been admitted from that portion of the kingdom, as the arguments which enabled me to obtain those concessions for the separate Parliament of Sicily would doubtless have had the same effect with reference to the Sicilian share of an united Parliament.

The different tenures by which seats are held in both Houses of the British Parliament, when explained to those with whom I had occasion to discuss the question, appeared to satisfy them that absolute uniformity need not be required, for although the Ministers particularly charged with the preparation of the Neapolitan Constitution are in theory as well as by inclination friendly to the French system, they all respect the Parliament of England as the most successful example of Representative Government that the world has seen.

The real obstacles to a legislative union therefore were not to be found in any difficulty in adapting the machinery of Parliament to the different circumstances of the Two Sicilies, but in the feelings and opinions and passions of the people.

The Sicilians who felt that they had reconquered their Constitution of 1812 were not disposed to renounce their ancient and indisputable rights for a precarious participation in the new liberties of Naples; and even had these been more secure, it would have been impossible to induce them to submit to the dominion of a Government from which they had suffered so much. They very naturally distrusted the Government; and the conduct of the Ministers from the first moment was not calculated to win their confidence.

The Government held no communication whatever with Sicily, which it regarded merely as a rebellious province to be reduced to subjection to the superior power of Naples; and the constitutional Ministers accepted and continued to prosecute the civil war inherited from their predecessors.

It would have been a great mistake, in the state of public feeling thus produced in Sicily, to attempt to force on an union which could not be accomplished without aid from abroad; and I believe that the present establishment of totally distinct Governments for each country is what will most conduce to a safe and intimate union at some future period when the distrust and jealousy that now prevails shall have passed away.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

No. 110.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 1, 1848.

I AM still unable to report the conclusion of any arrangement of the affairs of Sicily; the Government after several days of continued deliberation in Council still refusing to give the assurance which was demanded, that Sicilian troops alone should be employed in the island.

The objections to such a stipulation are sufficiently obvious, and I see no practical necessity for it sufficiently weighty to justify the continuance of civil war on that ground alone. But neither on the other hand does it appear to me that the Government should hesitate to purchase peace by concession which would really be productive of no serious inconvenience; and I have invariably stated to the Duke of Serra Capriola and others of the Ministers, my opinion that both parties are wrong in the importance which they attach to that question.

The Sicilians however in seeking to place their liberties under the safeguard of their own countrymen may find a justification in their former experience; and there is certainly nothing in the character or the conduct of the existing Government to merit their confidence.

I have written, as your Lordship will perceive from the accompanying correspondence, strongly urging the Sicilians not to persist in their demand; but however well-disposed to listen to my advice, the leaders I fear may have too little power to enable them to contend with the public opinion so resolutely pronounced against the admission of Neapolitan troops.

The Duke of Serra Capriola called upon me this afternoon and in the course of our conversation I read him the memorandum which I had yesterday sent to Palermo, in order to satisfy him that I had been ready to employ whatever influence my advice might have to induce the Sicilians to accept the conditions which they may obtain; telling him however that I had not the slightest hope of its success; when I came to the passage which referred to the suspicions entertained here of some treacherous design on the part of England, he exclaimed that he hoped I did not in this refer to the Government. I said, certainly not to any formal declaration of the Government, but to the Ministers individually, who made no secret of their sentiments, and were in the daily habit in their conversation of imputing insidious intentions to the British Government. He made no reply.

After some further conversation he said that he would again to-day bring the subject under the consideration of the Council; and he begged me to delay the departure of the messenger whom I was to have dispatched this afternoon, which I of course consented to do.

It is therefore probable that I may to-morrow be able to report the final resolution of the Government and any further steps which I may take in the matter.

The public is becoming so impatient for peace with Sicily on any terms that it will be difficult much longer to prevent some turbulent display of dissatisfaction; and the clamour for the dismissal of the Ministers is so general that it is doubtful if they can hold their places till the assembling of Parliament, which must seal their doom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 111.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 3, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies and translations of all the correspondence which I have held both with the Neapolitan Government and the General Committee of Palermo, since I addressed your Lordship in my despatch of the 23rd ultimo, relative to the basis upon which I should be willing to proceed to Palermo to assist in negotiating a permanent accommodation between the King and his Sicilian subjects.

These papers are so numerous that it may be well that I should enumerate their respective dates and the persons by whom they were written and to whom addressed, viz:

- No. 1. Lord Mount Edgcumbe to Lord Minto. Palermo, February 22.
- No. 2. M. Stabile to Lord Mount Edgcumbe. Palermo, February 22, with a sub-inclosure and translation.
- No. 3. Lord Mount Edgcumbe to Lord Minto. Palermo, February 24.
- No. 4. M. Stabile to Lord Mount Edgcumbe. Palermo, February 24, with a translation.
- No. 5. Neapolitan Memorandum, February 24, with a translation.
- No. 6. Lord Minto to the Duke of Serra Capriola. Naples, February 26.
- No. 7. Duke of Serra Capriola to Lord Minto. Naples, February 26.
- No. 8. Duke of Serra Capriola to Lord Minto. Naples, February 28.

- No. 9. Lord Minto to Lord Mount Edgcombe. Naples, February 27.
 No. 10. Lord Minto to Lord Mount Edgcombe. Naples, February 29, inclosing a Memorandum.
 No. 11. Duke of Serra Capriola to Lord Minto. Naples, March 2.
 No. 12. Lord Minto to Lord Mount Edgcombe. Naples, March 2.
 No. 13. Lord Minto to the Duke of Serra Capriola. Naples, March 3.
 I have, &c.
 (Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

The Earl of Mount Edgcombe to the Earl of Minto.

(Extract.)

Palermo, February 22, 1848.

I HAVE just received by the "Loenst" your letter of the 20th, and although I have little to communicate, will add a few lines to that which I have requested Signor Stabile to forward you.

I entirely agree that the paper you inclose to me ought not to be made public, indeed it may be doubtful (unless before coming here you insist upon a formal approval of some basis for the arrangement of the Constitution by the General Committee) whether it would not be well to confine such communications to the Sub-Committee of gentlemen appointed by the Committee to treat with you, the list of whose names I inclose.

M. Stabile very positively assures me, and from what I learn from others I believe it to be the truth, that the desire for the re-organisation of society is becoming so strong, that any proposition which you would recommend them to accept would be received if you were here on the spot to urge it, provided always that it included a security against the introduction of Neapolitan troops into Sicily without consent of Parliament. To all it must be clear that actually to send them now or soon would be madness, unless the renewal of civil war was desired, for nothing could prevent the people from immediately attacking them.

The 3rd Article, from its wording, is I should think susceptible of great modifications, and it is to be hoped that by the 5th it does not follow that the Conscription is to be established, for that never would be consented to, though they would be willing by other means to raise a sufficient number of men.

It will also be essential that the acknowledgment of the continuance of their former rights should, as you before proposed, be declared.

These remarks I make from the conversations I had yesterday and to-day with Signor Stabile and others, as I cannot wait before writing for the letter which he has promised to send me to be forwarded to you.

Hitherto I have recommended you to consider their objections as overstated; now if he is not quite faithful in the opinions he gives, it is more likely that the difficulties are diminished than magnified, as their great desire is for your immediate arrival. Indeed I do think he is faithful, and repeat my own belief that the Committee would be willing to act upon recommendations made by you on the spot, although they contained such propositions as no one could venture here to offer for consideration, however ready they would be to urge their acceptance if they came supported by the authority of one in whom all at present have entire confidence; and that your presence here would greatly increase your influence.

I was surprised the other day that they did not allude in the conversations with Sir W. Parker to the necessity of calling together a Parliament, and I find that the reason for having omitted to do so was that they were forming a Commission to decide whether it were better to adopt that step or instead to assemble a meeting of Delegates from the different towns and districts of the island. By this they at any rate gain five or six days' time, before the termination of which they hope to have some positive answer from you, but if by that time there is not a certainty of your immediate arrival, or of some arrangement being concluded, one or the other must be convened.

I am told that the Delegates would probably be nearly the same individuals as the Members of the House of Commons, and by calling them the great difficulty which must arise in deciding upon the constitution of the House of Lords will be put off.

The following facts will prove *some* may be expected. In the published Constitution the names of 124 Peers are printed. Signor Stabile reduced the number that from fortune, right, and position were fit to be admitted, to 22. One of them told me that assisted by a person well acquainted with the circumstances of all, he had ascertained there were 84 who possessed the right.

This town more and more assumes the appearance of tranquillity. Numbers of the armed peasants have quitted it, and I have just been told many others of the people have consented to place their arms in store and only have possession of them when on duty; in short but for the horrible slaughter of the sbirri the conduct of the people in general has been really admirable. A Municipal Guard has been formed, and 1500 National Guards assembled this morning.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

M. Stabile to the Earl of Mount Edgcombe.

My Lord,

Comitato Generale, 22 febbrajo, 1848.

DOPO la lettura che vostra Eccellenza mi ha permesso di fare oggi alla sua presenza dell'ultimo memorandum del Ministero di Napoli e dopo le assicurazioni sul retto modo come sua Eccellenza Lord Minto ha giudicato questo memorandum, poche osservazioni mi occorre soggiungerle, osservazioni che d'altronde vostra Eccellenza con la sua sagacità e con la perfetta cognizione che ha di già acquistato delle cose nostre ha certamente fatto anche da se solo.

L'ultimo memorandum mostra nel Governo Napolitano un desiderio quantunque vagamente e con qualche mala fede espresso, di cedere in qualche punto dalle prime idee categoricamente annunziate nel memorandum del 7 febbrajo.

Osservo che la lista degli affari comuni si limita ora in gran parte alle cose che realmente debbono restar comuni, come sarebbero la lista civile, a pace e la guerra, i trattati, e il contingente dell'armata di terra e di mare. E vero che in questa lista si comprendono tuttavia dal Governo Napolitano i trattati di commercio e le tariffe doganali; ma certamente con una seria e coscienziosa discussione potrebbe venirsi a capo di qualche accordo che soddisfaccasse ai bisogni della Sicilia nel miglior modo compatibile con tutte le altre circostanze che pur debbono tenersi presenti.

Nell'Articolo pel contingente dell'esercito il memorandum tace della condizione che in Sicilia non debbono entrare altri soldati che i Siciliani senza il consenso del Parlamento, e poichè i Governi liberi debbono essere fondati nella reciproca fiducia non può certamente il Governo di Napoli opporsi a questo essenziale articolo di accordo senza provar chiaramente che diffidi della Sicilia. E poi se la Sicilia redotta all'estremo della oppressione, senza armi, e senza capi ha potuto cacciare in pochi giorni il numeroso esercito Napolitano, che ne sarà mai quando la Sicilia costituita con forme libere, con una Rappresentanza Nazionale propria, con una Guardia Nazionale effettiva, potrà far uso delle sue forze con miglior ordine e con maggior disciplina? Se il Governo Napolitano vuole realmente trarre tutto il maggior profitto dalle forze della Sicilia, deve per prima base piantare la fiducia verso i Siciliani, e condisceendendo francamente ai voti nostri, ne avrà maggior forza, maggior sostegno, che tutti i reggimenti Napolitani potessero obbligarmi a dar loro.

Inoltre senza esagerazione dall'un canto o dall'altro, che forza morale o materiale potrebbero avere in Sicilia reggimenti Napolitani? Lo insistere in questo argomento sarebbe dubitare che la libertà e l'amicizia della Sicilia si vogliano davvero.

Il memorandum fa conoscere che non vuoi concedere alla Sicilia una

Costituzione propria, e che non vuolsi tener conto dei suoi antichi diritti e della sua Costituzione del 1812. Si guardi bene il Governo Napolitano dagli errori del 1820. Se allora il Governo Napolitano avesse contentato i voti de' Palermitani, la libertà Napolitana avrebbe trovato in Sicilia la più forte e la più legale ritirata.

Ora non si parla più di Palermo, ora si parla della Sicilia intera unanime concorde, ora si parla di un diritto che la Sicilia vuole riconosciuto come proprio, imprescrittibile, non mai contrastato. Il Ministero Napolitano, se fosse veramente liberale, dovrebbe cominciare dal riconoscere i diritti degli altri, onde ne' casi futuri domandare che sia rispettato il diritto che una concessione spontanea ha dato ai Napolitani. E poi se la Sicilia avrà per diritto proprio assicurata una Costituzione ed un Parlamento non sarà questo un saldo titolo, perchè in tutti gli eventi i Napolitani sostengano che una simile istituzione deve loro esser conservata? Questa questione dunque deve piuttosto nell'interesse dei Napolitani anziché de' Siciliani essere risolta secondo i voti nostri.

Non mi dilungo oltre in altre osservazioni circa l'impossibilità e l'inconvenienza che un Luogotenente del Rè fosse un Napolitano, tranne le persone della Famiglia Reale, e su altri Articoli di minore importanza che una franca e sincera discussione potrebbero appianare, ma concludo che da tutta la condotta di sua Eccellenza Lord Minto si rileva con tale evidenza la sua saggezza e la sua giustizia nel ponderare i diritti e i voti de' Siciliani, che qualunque proposizione del Governo Napolitano da lui riconosciuta giusta e plausibile, sarà immantincante e con un universale assentimento accolta dai Siciliani.

Nel ripeter dunque all' Eccellenza vostra i miei più vivi ringraziamenti pel sincero ed illuminato interesse che prende nelle cose nostre, la scongiuro di insister presso sua Eccellenza Lord Minto per persuaderlo di venir subito qui, tosto che avrà ottenuto condizioni che egli stesso giudicherà accettabili e giusti.

Ho l'onore, &c.
(Firmato) MARIANO STABILE.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

General Committee, February 22, 1848.

AFTER the perusal which your Excellency permitted me this day in your presence of the last memorandum of the Neapolitan Ministry, and after your assurances respecting the true light in which this memorandum is viewed by his Excellency Lord Minto, I shall confine myself to a few remarks only; remarks moreover which your Excellency's penetration and complete knowledge of our affairs will already have suggested to you.

The last memorandum shows in the Neapolitan Government a wish, however vaguely and disloyally expressed, to give way on some points from the ideas first categorically announced in the memorandum of the 7th of February.

I perceive that the list of subjects which are to be considered as common, is now limited in great part to such matters as really ought to be common; such as the Civil List, Peace and War, Treaties, and the Military and Naval Contingent. It is true that the Neapolitan Government still include in this list Commercial Treaties and Customs Duties; but there can be no doubt that a serious and conscientious discussion might lead to the discovery of some expedient which would satisfy the wants of Sicily in such a way as to be compatible with a due regard to other circumstances.

In the Article relative to the Contingent for the Army, the memorandum makes no mention of the condition that no soldiers other than Sicilians shall enter Sicily without the consent of Parliament; and inasmuch as free Governments should be grounded upon mutual confidence, it is evident that the Neapolitan Government cannot oppose this very essential article of agreement without proving clearly that it distrusts Sicily. But if Sicily, reduced as she was to the extremity of oppression, was able without arms and without chiefs to expel the numerous Nea-

politan army in a few days, how different would be her case when Sicily, constituted with a free form of Government, with her own national representation and with an efficient National Guard, shall be in a position to make use of her forces with greater order and discipline? If the Neapolitan Government really wishes to derive the greatest amount of advantage from the forces of Sicily, its basis should be confidence towards the Sicilians; and by frankly meeting our wishes it would acquire greater strength and greater support than all the Neapolitan regiments together could compel us to contribute.

But moreover without exaggeration on either side, what power either moral or material could Neapolitan regiments possess in Sicily? To insist upon this stipulation would be to throw doubts upon the real wishes entertained for the liberty and friendship of Sicily.

The memorandum acquaints us that it is not intended to grant a separate Constitution to Sicily, and that her ancient rights and the Constitution of 1812 are not to be taken into account. Let the Neapolitan Government beware of committing the same errors as in 1820. If the Neapolitan Government had then satisfied the wishes of the Palermitans, Neapolitan liberty would have found in Sicily the strongest and most legitimate of retreats.

There is now no longer any question of Palermo; all Sicily united and unanimous insists upon the recognition of her imprescriptible undisputed right. Were the Neapolitan Ministry really liberal it would begin by acknowledging the rights of others, with a view at some future period to the recognition of a right which the Neapolitans derive from spontaneous concession. And surely if Sicily in her own right is assured of a Constitution and a Parliament, will not this be a valid title by which the Neapolitans may under any circumstances insist upon a similar institution being preserved to them? This question therefore should be decided in accordance with our wishes, rather in the interest of the Neapolitans than in that of the Sicilians.

I will not dilate upon the impossibility and impropriety of the demand that the King's Lieutenant, when not a member of the Royal Family, may be a Neapolitan, nor upon other articles of less consequence, which a frank and sincere discussion might smooth down, but I will conclude with saying that from the whole tenour of his Excellency Lord Minto's conduct, his prudence and justice in weighing the rights and the wishes of the Sicilians are so evident, that any proposition of the Neapolitan Government which is pronounced plausible and just by him would immediately and by universal consent be accepted by the Sicilians.

In repeating therefore to your Excellency my warmest thanks for the sincere and enlightened interest which you take in our affairs, I conjure you to use your utmost endeavours to persuade Lord Minto to come here the instant he shall have obtained conditions which he deems acceptable and just.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MARIANO STABILE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 111.

M. Stabile to the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe.

J'AI l'honneur de vous dire que les Commissaires nommés sont :—

Moi.

Le Marquis de Torrearsa.

M. La Masa.

M. Carnazza, Député de Catania.

M. Natoli, Député de Messine.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.

Ce Mardi 22.

(Signé) M. STABILE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 111.

The Earl of Mount Edgumbe to the Earl of Minto.

My dear Lord,

Palermo, February 24, 1848.

I HAVE had an interview with M. Stabile.

He informed me that the Commission appointed to decide whether a Parliament or a Meeting of Delegates should be assembled, was ready to report, and that their report would be in favour of a Parliament. He gave me several reasons why it would be unadvisable and even dangerous to delay any longer taking the first steps in accordance with that report, and has promised to put them on paper to be inclosed to you.

Although I have in obedience to your wishes strenuously urged them to put off this decision, my own opinion has for some days been that upon the whole it was desirable, and I cannot now anticipate any evil from the measure.

I every day hear of fresh dissensions among the Committee, which must naturally tend to diminish the little actual power they possess.

Yet I am happy to say so admirable is the temper and good sense displayed by the people, that every day order appears to become more assured. Few, if any, retain arms except those authorized to act as Municipal or National Guards, and to-morrow all the tribunals and courts are to be open and to carry on their proceedings as formerly.

I informed M. Stabile of the difficulties you anticipated in getting the Government to consent to the non-admittance of Neapolitan or foreign troops without the consent of Parliament, but he declared that that must be considered a *sine quâ non*. It ought not to be considered so by the Government, for at present they are *de facto* excluded; and if it obtains that influence which all Governments must possess in a Parliament, they could prevent the condition being enforced. If they do not possess that power, it will not be obtained, nor any other, as has been proved, by the means of Neapolitan troops.

I referred in the conversation with Signor Stabile to the proposition that was considered in the conference with the Admiral, that of sending here the Sicilian regiments in the King's service, and he is of opinion that with proper officers it would be desirable.

I do not hear a whisper of a desire to dethrone the King, and till I do of course shall not allude to the subject.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) MOUNT EDGE CUMBE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 111.

M. Stabile to the Earl of Mount Edgumbe.

My Lord,

Palermo, 24 febbrajo, 1848.

SICCOME in tutte le circostanze ho praticato, stimo mio dovere di comunicare all' Eccellenza vostra per iscritto quanto ho avuto l'onore di esporre questa mattina verbalmente.

Da tutte le parti dell' isola e da una forte maggioranza nel Comitato Generale stesso ci giungono le più vive premure per sollecita convocazione del Parlamento.

La speranza che la valevole mediazione di sua Eccellenza Lord Minto avesse potuto indurre il Governo Napolitano a consentire a quelle giuste condizioni che si domandavano, ha fatto tacere per qualche giorno l'espressione di questo vivo desiderio universale.

Ma le lungherie del Governo Napolitano, la mala fede nel mostrarsi un giorno disposto a taluni condizioni, e ritrattarsi per il giorno seguente; l'evidenza dello scopo di queste lungherie per le quali vorrebbe darsi a Potenze poco amiche il tempo d'ingerirsi in questo affare, e togliere a Lord Minto la posizione di unico mediatore; lo stato infine della Sicilia la

quale ha un preciso bisogno di venire ad una soluzione, per affrettare il desiderato momento di potersi costituire in un modo meno provvisorio e più ordinate del presente; tutto in somma cospira ad obbligare questo Comitato Generale a prender subito la risoluzione di convocarsi il Parlamento Nazionale.

Questa misura avrà molti utili risultati:

1°. Soddisfarà il voto universale e renderà perciò ancor più imponente e rispettata la volontà del Comitato Generale.

2°. Occuperà gli animi per le elezioni, e li dirigerà ad uno scopo utile e determinato anziché tenerli ancora nel vago e nell'incertezza.

3°. Darà a sua Eccellenza Lord Minto un argomento più forte per costringere il Governo Napolitano a ceder subito alle condizioni sinora proposte da quell'onorevole diplomatico; dappoichè quando anche oggi o domani sia decisa la convocazione del Parlamento, un mese almeno dovrà trascorrere pur che potesse eseguirsi materialmente siffatta convocazione; e certamente sinu a che il Parlamento non sia materialmente convocato, il Comitato Generale non si asterrà dall'accettare quell'oneste e giuste condizioni che solo per la mediazione di sua Eccellenza Lord Minto ei potessero arrivare.

Prego dunque vostra Eccellenza di darne avviso a sua Eccellenza Lord Minto acciocchè nel caso che gli pervenisse la nuova di questa convocazione, potesse apprezzarla nel suo vero senso, e non la riguardasse affatto come una mancanza di fiducia nell'alto e valevole suo patrocinio.

Ho l'onore, &c.
(Firmato) MARIANO STABILE.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Palermo, February 24, 1848.

AS has hitherto on all occasions been my practice, I consider it my duty to communicate to your Excellency in writing the substance of what I stated verbally to you this morning.

From all parts of the island and from a large majority of the General Committee the strongest representations are made tending to an early convocation of Parliament.

The manifestation of this decided and universal desire was for a short time kept down by the hope that the efficacious mediation of his Excellency Lord Minto might have induced the Neapolitan Government to agree to the very equitable terms demanded.

But the procrastination of the Neapolitan Government, the want of faith shown in appearing one day favourably disposed towards certain conditions which were retracted the next, the evident object of these delays to give time for unfriendly Powers to interfere and to deprive Lord Minto of the position of sole mediator; and finally the state of Sicily which absolutely requires a solution of some sort in order to hasten the wished-for moment when she can constitute herself in a less provisory manner and more systematically than is the case at present; in short all conspires to make it necessary that the General Committee should immediately resolve upon convening a National Parliament.

This measure would lead to many useful results.

1. It will satisfy the universal wish and will consequently conduce to the increased respect and influence of the General Committee.

2. It will occupy the public mind with the elections and will direct it to a definite and useful end instead of keeping it in continued vagueness and uncertainty.

3. It will furnish his Excellency Lord Minto with a more weighty argument in urging the Neapolitan Government to give way immediately upon the terms which have up to this time been proposed by that honourable diplomatist, inasmuch as even if the convocation of the Parliament be decided upon to-day or to-morrow, a month at least must elapse before this convocation is really carried into effect; and so long as Parliament has not actually been convoked, the General Committee would assuredly

agree to accept such honourable and equitable terms as can reach us only through the mediation of his Excellency Lord Minto.

I beg therefore that your Excellency will acquaint Lord Minto with the above, in order that should the intelligence of this convocation reach him he may appreciate it in its true sense and may not regard it as by any means a want of confidence in the efficacy of his patronage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARIANO STABILE.

Inclosure 6 in No. 111.

Memorandum signed by the Duke of Serra Capriola respecting adjustment of terms to be granted to Sicily.

IL preambolo si farà secondo i desiderj di Lord Minto come siegue:—

“Avendo noi graziosamente risoluto di continuare a' nostri sudditi Siciliani quelle Parlamentarie istituzioni ad essi conferite da' nostri predecessori, con quelle modificazioni che il cangiamento de' tempi e le particolari circostanze de' nostri dominj al di là del Faro rendono espedienti; e siccome noi abbiamo dato a' nostri dominj di quà del Faro una Costituzione Rappresentativa composta di due Camere Legislative e contenente i più illuminati principj sanzionati dall' esperienza di quelle nazioni che hanno adottata la forma Rappresentativa di Governo; così dichiariamo la stessa applicata a' nostri dominj al di là del Faro con le modificazioni qui appresso stabilite.”

Gli Articoli 1, 2, 3, 4, e 5 del memorandum passato a Lord Minto restano tale quale, non avendo offerto alcun' osservazione.

Articolo 6. Si è detto che i Siciliani desidererebbero che il Luogotenente che il Rè vorrà destinare in Sicilia non possa essere Napoletano; a ciò si potrebbe consentire restando fra le prerogative del Rè di destinarvi un Principe del Sangue o un suo suddito di là del Faro. Il resto dello Articolo 6, sulla prerogativa del Rè di disporre della forza pubblica, resta fermo.

Articolo 7. Sembra accettato.

Articolo 8. Dagli oggetti di comune interesse, sembra che la Sicilia desideri vedere eccettuati i trattati di commercio, ed accolti gli altri indicati in detto Articolo. Sembra ancora che i Siciliani desiderino la libertà di adottare il sistema delle Scale Franche ovunque piaccia loro.

Si risponde: Se i Siciliani vogliono la libertà di fare tariffe e trattati di commercio collo straniero, dichiarare porti e scale franche, nulla vi si opporre; ma in tal caso deve cessare il libero cabottaggio ed ogni privilegio, ciascuna parte del regno si regolerà sull'oggetto a seconda della sua particolare economia, salvi rimanendo i trattati sottoscritti sino al giorno d'oggi colle Potenze estere.

Qualora poi su tale oggetto non si volesse portare alcuna novità, in tal caso rimanga lo stato attuale, ed anche restino fermi i particolari e scambievoli privilegj già esistenti.

Tra le questioni d'interesse comune si ammette da' Siciliani l'ammontare di tutte le forze di terra e di mare nelle due parti del regno, ma pare che si dovrebbe dichiarare espressamente che senza il consenso del Parlamento Siciliano, non potrebbero essere introdotte in Sicilia truppe di qualunque altra nazione, neppure Napolitane.

Si risponde: Che per la prima parte di questa pretesa, cioè che non possono introdursi truppe straniere nel regno se non in forza di una legge votata dal Parlamento, ciò è solennemente consacrato dello Articolo 10 della Costituzione.

Per la seconda parte poi, cioè, che se ne mandino delle Napolitane in Sicilia, e se ne facciano dalla Sicilia venire in Napoli, ciò violerebbe il secondo comma dell' Articolo 63 della Costituzione, ove tra le prerogative della Corona è solennemente dichiarato esservi quella il Rè comanda tutta la forza di terra e di mare e ne dispone.

(Firmato) SERRA CAPRIOLA.
2 C

(Translation.)

Naples, February 24, 1848.

THE preamble will be drawn up in accordance with the wishes of Lord Minto as follows:—

"Having graciously resolved upon continuing to our Sicilian subjects the Parliamentary institutions conferred upon them by our predecessors, with such modifications as the change of times and the peculiar circumstances of our dominions situated beyond the Straits may render expedient; and whereas we have given to our dominions on this side of the Straits a Representative Constitution composed of two Legislative Chambers and embodying the most enlightened principles sanctioned by those nations which have adopted the Representative form of Government; we now declare the same to be applicable to our dominions beyond the Straits with the modification hereinafter determined."

The Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the memorandum submitted to Lord Minto will stand without alteration, having provoked no remark.

Article 6. It has been observed that the Sicilians would wish that the Lieutenant whom the King may destine for Sicily should not be a Neapolitan; this might be agreed to, the King having the prerogative of sending there either a Prince of the Blood or a subject from beyond the Straits. The remainder of the 6th Article, relating to the King's prerogative as to the disposal of the public forces, would be retained.

Article 7. Appears to be accepted.

Article 8. It would appear that Sicily is desirous that among the matters of common concern treaties of commerce should be excepted, whilst the other subjects mentioned in that Article would be included. And it would appear that the Sicilians wish to be at liberty to adopt the Bonding system wherever they please.

To this it is replied: That if the Sicilians wish for liberty to regulate their own tariff and to enter into treaties of commerce with foreigners to create free ports and bonding localities, no objection will be made to their doing so, but in that case the free coasting trade and every other privilege must be given up, each portion of the kingdom regulating itself according to its own peculiar economy, excepting always with regard to treaties signed with foreign Powers down to the present day.

In case however it is not wished to alter the present state of things, it would still subsist, and the peculiar reciprocal privileges now existing would be maintained.

Among the questions of common interest the Sicilians admit the calling together the land and sea forces in the two portions of the kingdom, but accompanied by the explicit declaration that without the consent of the Sicilian Parliament no troops shall be introduced into Sicily belonging to any foreign nation, without excepting Neapolitan troops.

It is replied: That as respects the first part of this pretension, that is to say, that no foreign troops shall be introduced into the kingdom unless by virtue of a law voted by Parliament, this has been solemnly stipulated in the 10th Article of the Constitution.

With respect to the second part however, namely, that no Neapolitan troops shall be sent to Sicily and that no Sicilian troops shall be brought to Naples, this would be a violation of the second paragraph of the 63rd Article of the Constitution, in which amongst the prerogatives of the Crown solemnly enumerated, is that of the King's commanding the whole of the land and sea forces and of his right to dispose of them.

(Signed) SERRA CAPRIOLA.

Inclosure 7 in No. 111.

The Earl of Minto to the Duke of Serra Capriola.

Excellence,

Naples, le 26 Février, 1848.

LORSQUE je me disposais à faire connaître en Sicile les dernières propositions que vous m'aviez remises dans la matinée, j'ai reçu hier au soir des lettres de Palerme qui me réitérent la détermination fixe de regarder l'exclusion des troupes Napolitaines comme *sine quâ non* dans toute négociation que je leur proposerais.

Ces lettres m'annoncent aussi que le Comité Général n'avait pas cru devoir résister plus longtems aux instances du public pour la convocation du Parlement, qui allait être proclamé comme seul moyen de conserver au Gouvernement Provisoire le pouvoir nécessaire au maintien de l'ordre.

Je ne veux me permettre aucune observation sur l'Article qui regarde la composition de la force qui doit être employée en Sicile, si ce n'est qu'en accordant cette demande le Roi aurait la satisfaction et la gloire, en levant ce qui me parait le dernier obstacle à la pacification de son royaume, de faire cesser une lutte sanglante et de s'assurer la confiance et l'amour de ses sujets.

Veillez, &c.
(Signé) MINTO.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Naples, February 26, 1848.

AS I was preparing to make known in Sicily the last proposals which you had delivered to me in the morning, I received yesterday evening letters from Palermo, repeating to me the fixed determination to consider the exclusion of the Neapolitan troops as a *sine quâ non* in any negotiation which I might propose to them.

These letters likewise announce to me that the General Committee had not deemed it right any longer to resist the importunity of the public for the convocation of the Parliament, which was about to be proclaimed as the only means of securing to the Provisional Government the power required for the maintenance of order.

I will not allow myself to observe on the Article touching the composition of the force to be employed in Sicily, except that the King, by granting this demand, would have the satisfaction and the glory, by removing what appears to me the last obstacle to the pacification of his kingdom, of putting a stop to a bloody contest and of securing to himself the confidence and the love of his subjects.

Be pleased, &c. (Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 8 in No. 111.

The Duke of Serra Capriola to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Naples, le 26 Février, 1848.

J'AI reçu la lettre que votre Excellence m'a adressée aujourd'hui et je m'empresse de vous faire connaître que le Conseil des Ministres se réunira demain pour délibérer sur l'objet important dont vous m'y entretenez; par conséquent je pourrai vous faire connaître ses résolutions dans la journée de Lundi, et j'espère que votre Excellence emploiera toujours ses bons offices pour que la Sicile ne convoque pas un Parlement, qui sera toujours illégal tant que dureront les négociations que vous avez entreprises.

Veillez, &c.
(Signé) SERRA CAPRIOLA.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 26, 1848.

I HAVE received the letter which your Excellency addressed to me to-day, and I hasten to communicate to you that the Council of Ministers will assemble to-morrow in order to deliberate on the important matter which you mention to me therein; consequently I shall be able to inform you of its decisions in the course of Monday, and I hope that your Excellency will continually employ your good offices in order that Sicily may not summon a Parliament, which will always be illegal as long as the negotiations which you have undertaken shall continue.

Be pleased, &c.

(Signed) SERRA CAPRIOLA.

Inclosure 9 in No. 111.

The Earl of Minto to the Earl of Mount Edgumbe.

My dear Lord,

Naples, February 27, 1848.

I HAVE but a moment to say that your last letters have made an impression here, and that a reconsideration of the Sicilian question will occupy the Council to-day. I am promised information of their decision to-morrow morning.

They are anxious that the convocation of the Sicilian Parliament should be further postponed. After the strong reasons for calling it given by M. Stabile I cannot ask this; but I think it would be wise that it should not actually assemble if a satisfactory Constitution is given before the time of meeting.

The notion is that the Council will now wash its hands of all the disputed questions, leaving them to be decided by the respective Parliaments.

I think I have got terms which will be satisfactory in Sicily on all important points except the army, and I am now pressing for it.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 10 in No. 111.

The Duke of Serra Capriola to the Earl of Minto.

Milord,

Naples, le 28 Février, 1848.

LE contenu de la lettre que vntre Excellence m'a adressée le 26 du courant est d'une telle gravité que le Ministère n'a pu hier prendre aucune décision définitive, et est réuni encore ce matin pour continuer la discussion.

Je me vois donc dans la nécessité de vous prévenir qu'il ne me sera possible de vous donner une réponse catégorique que dans la journée de demain.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SERRA CAPRIOLA.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

THE contents of the letter which your Excellency addressed to me on the 26th instant are of such importance that the Ministry could not yesterday come to any definitive decision, and it has reassembled this morning in order to continue the discussion.

I am therefore under the necessity of informing you that it will not be possible for me to give you a decisive answer until to-morrow.

Be pleased, &c.

(Signed)

SERRA CAPRIOLA.

Inclosure 11 in No. 111.

The Earl of Minto to the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe.

My dear Lord Mount Edgecumbe,

Naples, February 29, 1848.

THE Council is at this moment sitting on the Sicilian affairs—the army is the only question, and my information leads me to believe (indeed I think I may say it certainly) that they will not yield on that point. I really wish the Sicilians would not throw away the chance of peace and a good Constitution by persisting in this demand.

This Government has made a circular appeal to all foreign Courts on the Sicilian Question.

I send you a memorandum to be used at your discretion.

Yours, &c.

(Signed)

MINTO.

Inclosure 12 in No. 111.

Memorandum by the Earl of Minto.

Naples, February 29, 1848.

THE preamble to the decree will I trust be satisfactory to the Sicilians; it is in the precise terms proposed by me in my memorandum of the 13th February which I addressed to the Council of State; and although no specific mention is made of the Constitution of 1812, it is clearly and indisputably comprised in the general words, as it is indeed the most important and the most recent of the Parliamentary institutions which the Sicilians have possessed; and it will be seen that the Constitution now to be established is announced not as a new and gratuitous concession, but as a modification and adaptation to existing circumstances of Parliamentary institutions so referred to; thus sufficiently connecting the future Constitution with the ancient rights of the nation.

It is a mistake to say that no objections are made to these articles.

Article 1. Provides only for the creation of Peers for life. It has been promised that a portion of the Peerage shall be hereditary, and I have no doubt that this promise will be respected.

Article 8. The conditions here required seem reasonable and necessary if there is to be an entire separation of commercial and fiscal legislation in the two countries; but it is probable that some other arrangement may be found practicable, sufficiently protecting the interests of both parties without restricting the free intercourse of their *cabotage*.

I apprehend that it is chiefly against the imposition of export duties on their produce that the Sicilians desire to protect themselves, and that they would be content to take their chance of whatever tariff for imports might be established by the mixed Commission of Parliaments. I have therefore suggested that the export duties alone should be reserved exclusively for the separate Parliaments, leaving all questions regarding imports to be treated as objects of common interest. If this should be agreed to on both sides I see no reason for restraint upon the *cabotage*.

As regards existing treaties there can of course be no doubt; these being engagements contracted with foreign States which cannot be revoked without their consent.

The limitation of the choice of the Luogotenente to Princes of the blood or native Sicilians is agreed to. There remains then only the question of the army to be employed in Sicily. On this subject I have done all in my power to induce the Government to comply with the wish

so strongly conveyed to me by M. Stabile, as to appear a *sine quâ non* in any negotiation to be proposed. Hitherto all my efforts have been fruitless, nor have I received the least encouragement to hope for better success in any attempt to obtain what is looked upon here as an unconstitutional restriction of the Royal prerogative.

Having stated thus much, I trust that I may be excused in expressing my deep regret that there should appear on either side a readiness to sacrifice every hope of accommodation to a question in my mind of very little practical importance.

In the present state of public feeling the most extravagant suspicions possess men's minds, and a sentiment of intense hostility has been generated which blinds their judgment; but these unhappy animosities I trust are not destined to endure.

It is feared in Sicily that the Government of Naples may contemplate the subjugation of the island by a Neapolitan army. After what we have recently witnessed can any one seriously entertain such an apprehension under the protection of a Sicilian Parliament and a well-organized National Guard?

On the other hand a ridiculous fear possesses the Government that Sicily might employ her native army to sever the unions of the Crowns of the Two Sicilies. And England is even supposed to favour such a design for some treacherous object of her own.

These are visionary delusions on both sides which a few years of peace and good government will dispel; and it is really a short-sighted passion which is willing to prolong the present sufferings and to incur the risk of foreign intervention and new dangers to the rising liberties of Italy by pertinaciously insisting upon a condition which cannot be obtained and which, as I said before, seems to me practically unimportant.

I certainly think the difficulty made by the Government with respect to this condition is unreasonable and indefensible. But he who gives way on this occasion and restores peace to the country will best prove his patriotism.

It is unnecessary for me to proceed to Palermo whilst this insuperable obstacle to all accommodation subsists; and indeed I must soon turn my steps again towards Rome; but if I am so happy as in the course of a few days to learn that the condition regarding the army is not insisted on I will immediately embark for Sicily.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 13 in No. III.

The Duke of Serra Capriola to the Earl of Minto.

Milord,

Naples, le 2 Mars, 1848.

LE Ministère a pesé avec maturité les réflexions que votre Excellence m'a faites dans notre dernier entretien sur la prétention des Siciliens de ne vouloir admettre dans leur île, sans le consentement du Parlement, d'autres troupes que des Siciliennes, pas même des Napolitaines.

Ne pouvant pas se ranger à vos opinions et ne voulant pas restreindre le Roi au vote de son Conseil, le Ministère en masse a prié Sa Majesté d'accepter sa démission pour pouvoir entendre l'avis d'un nouveau Cabinet sur une question d'une si haute importance, et qui semble vitale pour maintenir l'unité du royaume.

Le Roi a daigné accepter la prière de ses Ministres et s'occupe à former le nouveau Cabinet.

En communiquant, &c.

(Signé)

DUC DE SERRA CAPRIOLA.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 2, 1848.

THE Ministers have maturely considered the observations which your Excellency made to me in our last conference on the pretensions of the Sicilians to object to the admission into their island, without the consent of Parliament, of any other than Sicilian troops, not even Neapolitan.

Being unable to concur in your opinion, and being unwilling to restrict the King to the vote of his Council, the Ministers in a body have requested His Majesty to accept of their resignation, in order that he may hear the opinion of a new Cabinet on a question of such great importance, and which appears a vital question as regards the maintenance of the unity of the kingdom.

The King has been pleased to acquiesce in the request of his Ministers, and is engaged in forming a new Cabinet.

In communicating, &c.

(Signed)

SERRA CAPRIOLA.

Inclosure 14 in No. III.

The Earl of Minto to the Earl of Mount Edgumbe.

My dear Lord Mount Edgumbe,

Naples, March 2, 1848.

I INCLOSE you the copy of a note which I have just received from the Duke of Serra Capriola, with whom I had yesterday some conference on the affairs of Sicily.

The change of Ministry which it announces is so important, and is I trust so likely to facilitate an immediate pacification, that I have asked the Admiral to send the "Porcupine" to Palermo with this intelligence.

As soon as the new Ministry is formed and I receive their authority to proceed to Sicily with satisfactory conditions, I shall embark without delay. And I do trust that every disposition will be shown in the island to refrain from urging demands with which it may be found impossible to comply.

Some concession to the wishes of the Sicilians, sufficient to remove any reasonable apprehensions which might be entertained from the presence of an overwhelming force of Neapolitan troops may I hope be expected. But whatever may be the composition of the new Cabinet, I do not believe that so great an encroachment on the Royal prerogative as the complete exclusion of any description of Neapolitan troops is likely to be agreed to.

I remain, &c.

(Signed)

MINTO.

Inclosure 15 in No. III.

The Earl of Minto to the Duke of Serra Capriola.

Monsieur le Duc,

Naples, le 3 Mars, 1848.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre en date d'hier par laquelle votre Excellence a bien voulu me communiquer la démission du Ministère auquel présidait votre Excellence avec tant de distinction.

Permettez qu'en vous exprimant, M. le Duc, le vif regret que me cause la cessation des rapports officiels que j'ai eu l'avantage d'entretenir avec votre Excellence, je puisse conserver l'espoir que nos relations personnelles, auxquelles j'attachais un si haut prix, n'en souffriront pas.

Veuillez agréer, &c.

(Signé)

MINTO.

(Translation.)

M. le Duc,

Naples, March 3, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive the letter dated yesterday, by which your Excellency has been pleased to communicate to me the resignation of the Ministry over which your Excellency presided with so much distinction.

Allow me, while expressing to you, M. le Duc, the deep regret which is caused to me by the cessation of the official relations which I have had the advantage of keeping up with your Excellency, to retain the hope that our personal relations, on which I set so high a value, will not suffer in consequence.

Be pleased, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

No. 112.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 3, 1848.

THE Duke of Serra Capriola and the whole of the Cabinet yesterday tendered their resignations which were accepted by the King. The grounds of this resolution are set forth in a declaration addressed to His Majesty which has been published in the newspapers of this morning and of which a copy shall be sent to your Lordship. An attempt is there made to charge all the difficulties of the Sicilian question upon the unreasonable pretensions of the people of that country, and in order to do this with more effect it is asserted that the Government was ready to submit any differences to the decision of the Parliaments of the two countries. No proposal of that sort however has ever reached my knowledge. I believe indeed that such an idea was once suggested by me in conversation with the Duke of Serra Capriola and apparently well received, but upon my asking what he would propose in the event of the non-agreement of the two Parliaments, he said that the Government must then take the decision into its own hands, which of course would not have been consented to in Sicily, and the proposal was never seriously considered.

Prince Cariati is now charged with the formation of a new Ministry.

I have had some conversation with him on the affairs Sicily and was sorry to find that he no longer views the exclusive employment of native troops in Sicily as favourably as he appeared to do when we talked of it a few days ago. He proposed to me that the question should be referred to the two Parliaments. That if they disagreed England and France should be called in to arbitrate, and that the Pope should be taken as umpire. I told him in the first place that I had no authority to pledge the British Government to such an arbitration without further instructions; and secondly, that I thought it extremely undesirable that foreign intervention should be sought to determine questions of their domestic policy. However I promised to consider further of his proposal if I found it likely to be well received in Sicily. He said that there could be no occasion to consult the Sicilians at all, because England and France being determined to take the settlement of the affair into their own hands, the Sicilians could not resist, and must submit to their arbitration and award.

I have since received a visit from M. Savarese who is to have a place in the new Cabinet, of which from his character and his talents he will become an important member. He is strongly of opinion that any attempt to govern the Two Sicilies as one kingdom would be at present premature, and that the union of the Crowns is all that can be safely secured, and he therefore desires to get rid of all disputed questions by leaving to each country its distinct and independent government as of old. With this view he proposes that the King should now summon the Sicilian Parliament to meet as constituted in 1812, and should adopt such modifications of its Constitution as may be deemed advisable.

☞ This undoubtedly would be the most honest course, the most acceptable to both countries, and productive of harmony which might facilitate their closer union hereafter, but it is not impossible that insuperable objections to this may be found in some quarter; and indeed the formation of the Ministry is still incomplete, so that it is impossible to foresee what its policy may be. Almost everyone however feels that the pacification of Sicily ought to be sought on almost any terms. Any longer delay is full of danger, as a formidable insurrection is preparing in Calabria in support of the Sicilians.

I shall to-morrow receive answers to my last letters to Palermo, and, if they are favourable, shall proceed there as soon as I have sufficient authority to treat on fair terms from the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 113.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 3, 1848.

WITH reference to my other despatch of this date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies and translation of the ministerial declaration therein alluded to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Declaration of the Neapolitan Ministry as to causes of their Resignation.

Sire,

Napoli, 1 Marzo 1848.

LE gravi cure di Stato che Vostra Maestà degnava di affidarci, esigeano sforzi, cui gli umani poteri non bastano, quando son chiamati a luttar simultaneamente col delirio delle passioni, con la vivacità della impazienza, e con le intemperanti sollecitazioni, che negl' istantanei rivolgimenti politici si sbrigliano da ogni parte. Ciò malgrado, in mezzo a commozioni sì tempestose, ed a lavori d' ogni genere, cui abbiamo dovuto consacrarci per non lasciar colpire da paralisi la macchina dello Stato, Vostra Maestà sanzionava sui nostri Progetti, oltre all' atto sovrano del 29 Gennaio del corrente anno, pria quella Costituzione che resterà sempre il monumento della vostra gloria e della grandezza del vostro animo; indi quella legge provvisoria elettorale che ci aprì l'adito alla pronta convocazione delle Camere legislative pel dì 1° del vengente mese di Maggio. Ed in servizio della Corona e della patria, ormai divenute inseparabili ed identiche, noi avremmo continuato a reggere con ogni sacrificio in questa difficile situazione, se le quistioni già insorte intorno alle deplorabili vicende de' vostri Reali domini di là del Faro, non ci avessero presentato il resistente ostacolo, sul quale osiamo richiamar per poco la vostra sovrana attenzione.

Tumultuavano que' popoli per impetrare della Maestà Vostra un formal cangiamento negli ordini politici dello Stato; ma rimaneva incomprendibile che non però cessassero i tumulti, quando Vostra Maestà concedea la Costituzione con sì magnanima sollecitudine; assicurando nell' Articolo 87 della medesima, che oltre a quel che in essa vi era di comun vantaggio e di stabile garentia per le due parti del reame, altro avrebbe ancor fatto per provvedere ai bisogni ed alle speciali condizioni di quei vostri amatissimi sudditi. Si cercò d'indagar le cagioni di un tal fenomeno; e per uscir del vago in cui queste si mostravano involte per la mancanza di comunicazioni ufficiali e dirette, si profitò de' buoni uffizi, onde un onorevole personaggio fè sperare di adoperarsi, come organo

efficace a determinarne il senso, e così ristabilir ivi la calma e la prosperità civile.

I desiderii de' Siciliani erano svariati e molteplici; noi ci rivolgemmo unanimi al cuor generoso della Maestà Vostra, che si mostrò ancor più di noi sollecita in cercar modo di appagarli. Si consentì,—che nei vostri Reali domini di là del Faro, a rannodamento e continuazione delle istituzioni Parlamentari che ivi altra volta erano state in vigore, vi fosse un separato Parlamento, composto di due Camere, e coi medesimi identici poteri, stabiliti nella Costituzione per quello de' vostri Reali domini di quà dal Faro; affinchè potesse vegliar più direttamente a tutte le parti dell'amministrazione interna; che vi fosse altresì un separato Ministero ed un distinto Consiglio di Stato, composto tutto di cittadini Siciliani; e che a cittadini Siciliani sarebbero esclusivamente conferiti gl' impieghi civili, i benefici ecclesiastici, e i gradi di regia elezione delle Guardia Nazionale, che vi si sarebbe immediatamente organizzata; che all'incarico di Luogotenente Vostra Maestà non avrebbe delegato, che o un Principe della Real Famiglia, o un cittadino Siciliano; benchè da prima ci fosse sembrata odioso ed inconvenientemente questa limitazione della prerogativa Reale nella scelta de' suoi Rappresentanti; che secondo si era praticato per lo innanzi, gl'impieghi diplomatici e i gradi nell' esercito di terra e nell'armata di mare si sarebbero conferiti a cittadini Siciliani promiscuamente coi cittadini Napoletani.

Era inevitabile che intanto si ragionasse, in qual modo si sarebbero decise le quistioni di comune interesse alle due parti del regno; come son quelle che a cagion di esempio si riferiscono alla lista civile, alle relazioni diplomatiche, al contingente dell' esercito di terra e dell' armata di mare, ai trattati di alleanza d' ogni specie, a quelli di commercio e lor corrispondenti tariffe, &c. Si pensò da prima, che delle Commissioni, tratte dai due separati Parlamenti, e riunite in un Parlamento misto in compendio, vi avrebbero provveduto: ma forzando le proporzioni tutto il prestigio di pompose parole, si volca che queste si componessero di un egual numero di Siciliani e di Napoletani: al che fu risposto, non aver noi poteri per darvi consenso, ignorando quel che avesse potuto giudicarne questa parte del regno per l'organo della sua legal Rappresentanza, onde non restasse offeso il principio, diplomaticamente riconosciuto, della unità del reame. Fra gli altri spedienti fu tocco e suggerito quello di rimettere questa special quistione al giudizio degli stessi due separati Parlamenti, i quali si sarebbero posti di accordo fra loro per trovar modo a risolverla: e noi per amor di concordia non vi ci opponemmo; benchè convinti che ciò avrebbe protratte, ma non risolte le gare, le quali probabilmente si sarebbero più tardi rianimate con maggior violenza.

Rimane un' ultima quistione, ma la più vitale. È scritto nella Costituzione che al Rè solo appartiene, come indispensabile prerogativa, il comandar tutte le forze di terra e di mare, e il disporre a suo giudizio per sostenere la integrità del reame contra ogni attentato di nemico esterno. Intanto si vuole interdetto al Re di tener altro che truppe Siciliane in Sicilia; interdetto che possa inviarvi mai truppe Napoletane, le quali con odio e improvvido consiglio vengono così assimilate ad ogni altra specie di straniera truppa. Noi vediamo in questa pretensione un inconveniente di ben altro più grave genere, il quale disordina in sul suo nascere quella general tendenza degli spiriti a ricomporre in guisa le varie parti della gran famiglia Italiana, da prestarsi a vicenda fra loro un potente, generoso ed amorevole sostegno. Poichè non potendo somministrar la Sicilia se non un picciolo contingente di forza pubblica, proporzionato all' actual sua popolazione di circa due milioni di abitanti, nulla di più facile ad un ambizioso nemico, quanto invaderla, organizzarvisi, ed indi prorompere sul vicino continente, e portar la conflagrazione, non solo nel resto del reame, ma in tutta la nostra cara e bella Italia, di cui la Sicilia, e sopra tutto Messina, sostenuta da valido braccio e riguardata come integrale al continente, è la propria e natural cittadella; senza che il Re fosse libero di opporvi alcuna efficace resistenza, pel pressistente divieto di mandare in quell' isola soccorsi di truppe Napolitane; e in altri termini, senza che possa mai attendere al sublime incarico di mantener sempre inviolata la integrità del territorio.

Sire, la nostra coscienza si solleva innanzi a questo concepimento:

nè aderendo alla pretensione, possiamo noi lasciar gravitare sul nostro capo un sì tremenda responsabilità. Essendoci d' altro canto impossibile di escogitar nuovi mezzi a risolvere una quistione di tanta importanza, che può gravemente compromettere la pace, la sicurezza, e lo stato di legal progresso in cui oggi si trovano tutte le parti dell' Italia, noi le domandiamo in complesso le grazie di poterci ritirar tutti dalle cure dello Stato. Un altro Ministero potrà suggerirle forse modi più acconci ad armonizzar fra loro interessi e desiderii sì diametralmente opposti, e gravissimi d' inevitabili pericoli. Voglia dunque la Maestà Vostra degnarsi di accordarci, con la giustizia e la benevolenza che le è propria, la dimissione che osiamo chiederle per quest' unico obbietto. Liberi cittadini al potere, noi saremo sudditi obbedienti e fedelissimi nel ritorno alla nostra vita privata e con l'intimo sentimento di non aver nulla trascurato per adempiere in sì breve intervallo a tutti i nostri doveri di sudditi e di cittadini, torremo a gloria di andar sempre testimoniando della franca lealtà, onde la Maestà Vostri si mostra sollecita in consolidare i nuovi ordini politici, che ha ben voluto stabilire in questo reame.

I Ministri Segretari di Stato,
DUCA DI SERRA CAPRIOLA,
 Pel Dipartimento della Presidenza del Consiglio e
 degli Affari Esteri.
BARONE CESIDIO BONANNI,
 Pel Dipartimento di Grazia e Giustizia e degli
 Affari Ecclesiastici.
PRINCIPE DENTICE,
 Pel Dipartimento delle Finanze.
PRINCIPE DI TORELLA,
 Pel Dipartimento dei Lavori Pubblici e dell'
 Agricoltura e Commercio.
CAVALIER FRANCESCO PAOLO BOZZELLI,
 Pel Dipartimento dell' Interno ed della Istruzione
 Pubblica, e Belle Arti.
MARESCIALLO DI CAMPO GIUSEPPE GARZIA,
 Pel Dipartimento della Guerra e Marina.

(Translation.)

Sire,

Naples, March 1, 1848.

THE grave cares of state which Your Majesty was pleased to confide to us demanded exertions for which human powers are insufficient when called upon to struggle simultaneously with the delirium of passions, with the vivacity of impatience, and with the intemperate solicitations which sudden political revulsions are apt to awaken on all sides.

Nevertheless and in the midst of such tempestuous agitation and of labours of all sorts to which we were called upon to devote ourselves in order that the machine of State might not be paralyzed, Your Majesty was pleased to sanction as projected by us, in addition to the Sovereign Act of the 29th of January, first, that Constitution which will live eternally as a monument of your glory and of the greatness of your mind; and next the provisional electoral law, which prepared the way for the early convocation of the Legislative Chambers for the 1st of May next.

In spite of this difficult position we should have continued at whatever sacrifice in the service of the Crown and of our country, which are from henceforth inseparable and identified, if the questions that have been raised respecting the deplorable vicissitudes of your Royal dominions beyond the Straits had not presented to us the insurmountable obstacle to which we now venture for a short time to recall your sovereign attention.

That people had risen in rebellion to wring from your Majesty a formal change in the political order of the State. But it appears incomprehensible that this rebellion should not have come to an end so soon as your Majesty's magnanimous solicitude had induced you to grant the Constitution, in the 57th Article of which assurances were given that in

addition to the matters contained in it of common advantage and permanent security for the two portions of the kingdom, you would also take further measures to meet the wants and the special circumstances of those your beloved subjects.

It was sought to fathom the causes of this phenomenon ; and in order to penetrate the obscurity in which these were enveloped from want of official and direct means of communication, advantage was taken of the good offices of an honourable personage as an authentic organ to ascertain the views there entertained, and thus to re-establish quiet and civil prosperity.

The wishes of the Sicilians were various and numerous ; we had recourse unanimously to the generous heart of your Majesty, who evinced even more anxiety than ourselves in seeking the means of satisfying them. It was agreed, with a view to the revival and continuation of the Parliamentary institutions which were formerly in force in your Royal dominions beyond the Straits, that a separate Parliament should be granted, composed of two Chambers, and with precisely the same powers as those stipulated in the Constitution for the Parliament of your Royal dominions on this side of the Straits, that it might watch more immediately over all parts of the internal administration. That there should in addition be a separate Ministry and a distinct Council of State composed entirely of Sicilian citizens ; and that on Sicilian subjects alone should be conferred civil appointments, ecclesiastical benefices, and the grades of the National Guard which are subject to the Royal choice, which National Guard was to be immediately organized. That your Majesty would have delegated for the office of Lieutenant either a Prince of the Royal Family or a Sicilian citizen, and this although the limitation of the Royal prerogative in the choice of its representative had at first appeared to us odious and improper. That, as has hitherto been the case, diplomatic appointments and the grades in the army and navy should be conferred indifferently on Sicilian or Neapolitan citizens.

It was indispensable that in the meanwhile we should be discussing the method by which questions of common interest to the two parts of the kingdom were to be decided ; such for instance as have reference to the Civil List, to Diplomatic Relations, to the Military and Naval Contingent, to Treaties of alliance of all sorts, to Treaties of Commerce and the Tariffs depending upon them, &c. It was at first thought that Commissions emanating from both separate Parliaments and assembled in a compendious mixed Parliament might have met this requirement ; but magnifying the proportions under cover of pompous expressions it was demanded that these proportions should consist of an equal number of Sicilians and Neapolitans. To which it was answered that we had no power to consent to such an arrangement in ignorance of the judgment that might be formed by this part of the kingdom through its legal Representatives, in order that the principle of the unity of the kingdom, diplomatically recognized, might suffer no diminution.

Among other expedients hit upon and suggested was that this special question should be submitted to the decision of the respective separate Parliaments, which would have sought to devise a solution of the difficulty. And we from a love of concord did not oppose this scheme, although convinced that it would have protracted instead of settling the dispute, which would probably later have broken out afresh with increased violence.

There remained a last question, the most vital of all. It is laid down in the Constitution that to the King only appertains the indispensable prerogative of commanding all the land and sea forces and of disposing of them in such a way as he considers most likely to maintain the integrity of the kingdom against every attempt of an enemy from without. Now it is sought to interdict the King from maintaining any but Sicilian troops in Sicily, to interdict his ever sending Neapolitan troops thither, which are thus in an odious and impolitic manner placed on the same footing as every other species of foreign troops.

We see in this pretension a still more serious inconvenience, which would in its very origin derange that general tendency which exists to

remodel the various parts of the great Italian family in such a way as mutually to lend each other a generous and cordial support; since as Sicily can only furnish a small contingent to the public force in proportion to its present population of about 2,000,000 of inhabitants, nothing would be more easy for an ambitious enemy than to invade it, organize his resources there, and from thence break loose upon the adjacent continent, carrying the conflagration not only into the rest of the kingdom but into the whole of our beloved and lovely Italy, of which Sicily and especially Messina, upheld by a stout arm and considered as an integral part of the continent, is the proper and natural citadel, without the King being enabled to oppose any effectual resistance in consequence of the pre-existing prohibition to send Neapolitan troops to the succour of that island; in other words without his ever being enabled to fulfil the sublime duty of maintaining inviolate the integrity of the territory.

Sire, our conscience rebels against this conception: nor can we by complying with such a pretension allow so tremendous a responsibility to weigh upon our heads. It being on the other hand impossible for us to devise new expedients for the solution of a question of so much importance, and which may seriously compromise the peace, the security, and the state of legal progress now subsisting in all parts of Italy, we request the favour that we may be allowed to retire in a body from the cares of State.

Another Ministry may possibly be able to suggest to you the means of reconciling interests and wishes so diametrically opposed and so pregnant with inevitable danger. We venture therefore to request that your Majesty will be pleased, with that justice and benevolence which is peculiar to you, to accept of our resignations which we submit to you on that question alone.

Free citizens in the possession of power, we shall become obedient and faithful subjects upon retiring into private life; and with the intimate persuasion that we have neglected no means in so short a period of fulfilling our duties as subjects and as citizens, we shall always glory in testifying to the frankness and loyalty with which your Majesty has sought to consolidate the new political order of things which your Majesty has been pleased to found in this kingdom.

(Signed)

DUKE OF SERRA CAPRIOLA.
BARON C. BONANNI.
PRINCE DENTICE.
PRINCE OF TORELLA.
CHEVR. F. P. BOZZELLI.
MARECHAL DE CAMP F. GARZIA.

No. 114.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.*

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 15, 1848.

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with great regret that some misapprehension exists at Vienna as to the objects of the Earl of Minto's mission to Naples; and that his Lordship's endeavours to bring about a reconciliation between the King of Naples and his Neapolitan and Sicilian subjects have been greatly misrepresented. I accordingly deem it expedient to send your Excellency a succinct account of the circumstances which led to Lord Minto's visit to Naples, as well as of its objects and results.

On the 15th of December last, the Neapolitan Minister at this Court, at an interview which he had with me at his own request, expressed a wish to be informed whether Lord Minto, who was then at Rome, was likely to go to Naples. I told him that the instructions with which Lord Minto was then

* A similar despatch addressed to Lord Bloomfield and to the Earl of Westmorland.

furnished did not prescribe any visit to Naples, but that if the King of Naples should express any wish that Lord Minto should visit his capital, Lord Minto should immediately go thither for the purpose of conveying to His Sicilian Majesty the strongest assurances of the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to maintain and, if possible, to improve the relations of friendship which have so long united the two Crowns.

In accordance with the intimation thus given to Prince Castellecale, letters of credence to the King of the Two Sicilies were forwarded to the Earl of Minto on the 16th of December last, and he was instructed to go on to Naples, if he should receive, through Lord Napier, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in that capital, an intimation that his presence would be agreeable to the King, and in that case he was instructed to hold to the Neapolitan Government the same language which he had already held to the Governments of Sardinia and Tuscany; namely, to encourage the King in effecting such improvements in the administration of his dominions as existing circumstances and the wants and reasonable wishes of His Majesty's subjects might seem to require; and Lord Minto was further directed to endeavour, as he has done elsewhere, to moderate the impatience of those persons whose object was reform; and to induce them, as far as lay in his power, to restrain their followers from breaking out into acts of violence, and to content themselves with seeking reform by means of reason and argument.

The Earl of Minto did not receive the invitation on which his journey to Naples was to depend, till after the Sicilian insurrection had broken out, and he was still at Rome when that event took place. On the 3rd of last February, rumours reached this country that the King of Naples had been compelled to grant, both to his Neapolitan and to his Sicilian subjects, the re-establishment of the Constitution of 1812, and I then authorised Lord Minto to proceed to Naples, even without an invitation of the King, if he should think it likely that he could be useful to His Majesty in smoothing down any difficulties in the practical application of the above arrangement, and in bringing about a good understanding between the King and his subjects. The Earl of Minto was at the same time instructed that it was the wish of Her Majesty's Government that the present dynasty of Naples should maintain itself upon the Throne, and that Sicily and Naples should remain united under one and the same Crown; and that it was because Her Majesty's Government foresaw that danger to the dynasty and to the union of the two countries would arise from the growing discontent of the nation, that Her Majesty's Government so anxiously wished that the King might remove that discontent by timely reform.

Events had however succeeded each other with such rapidity in Sicily and at Naples, that Lord Minto was compelled to proceed to Naples before the receipt of these instructions; his Lordship's own judgment and discretion, however, taught him to anticipate their tenor, and to act in every respect in conformity with the wishes and intentions of Her Majesty's Government. The constitution granted by the King proved not to be that of 1812, but to be one based on the French Charter. It had been agreed to by the Neapolitans, but had been rejected by the Sicilians. The insurgents in Sicily had successfully resisted the royal authorities, and the whole of Sicily, with the exception of the Citadel of Messina, was in their hands. Under these circumstances the leaders of the Sicilian insurrection had applied to Her Majesty's Mission at Naples for its good offices in mediating between them and the Neapolitan Government, and in obtaining for them the Constitution of 1812, which they erroneously supposed to have been guaranteed to them by Great Britain. Lord Napier, then in charge of Her Majesty's Mission, had at the same time been applied to by the Neapolitan Government for his good offices in mediating between that Government and the Sicilians; and considering the gravity and importance of the matters at issue, he deemed it advisable to have the support and advice of a Minister of the British Crown, who happened to be so near to his place of residence as Rome. It was thus, at his solicitation, that Lord Minto left Rome for Naples, for the purpose of assisting Lord Napier in the difficult circumstances in which he was placed. But the Earl of Minto was met half way, between Rome and Naples, by a messenger from the King of the Two Sicilies, bearing a pressing invitation to him to come, and it was consequently in accordance with the wish of every person interested in the matter that the Earl of Minto reached Naples.

On the receipt by Her Majesty's Government of the intelligence of Lord Minto's departure from Rome, the decision taken by his Lordship was approved of, and he was at the same time informed that the arrangements between the King of the Two Sicilies and his subjects, which would be most consonant with the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, because most conducive to the strength and union of the Neapolitan Monarchy, would be, that there should be one Parliament for the whole kingdom; and that Sicily and the Neapolitan Provinces should be represented in their due proportion in the two Houses of which that Parliament would consist; but he was told that if there should arise any insurmountable obstacles to such an arrangement, then two Parliaments, one for Naples and the other for Sicily, would become unavoidable.

On the arrival of the Earl of Minto at Naples he was again invited by both parties to mediate, and he accordingly used his best endeavours to bring about an understanding between the King of Naples and his Sicilian subjects, but he soon found that an arrangement such as that which Her Majesty's Government greatly preferred, viz., one Parliament for both kingdoms, might perhaps have been practicable at an earlier period, but was no longer attainable, and that the hesitation of the Neapolitan Government to make timely concessions, had borne its natural fruit in the shape of increased demands on the part of the popular and successful party. Lord Minto, accordingly, feeling that an early settlement of the Sicilian question, upon almost any terms, had become imperatively necessary, in order to preserve the union between the two countries, exerted himself to the utmost in devising means of accommodation. Notwithstanding the difficulties with which he had to contend, he was on the point of succeeding, when the negotiation was broken off, because the Neapolitan Government was not disposed to agree to a demand made by the Sicilians that Sicily should be garrisoned only by Sicilian troops; and the ground of this decision on the part of the Neapolitan Government is said to be a suspicion, to which they had been led by designing and mischievous persons, that Great Britain might avail herself of the circumstance of Sicily being so garrisoned in order to realize projects which the parties in question accused her of entertaining with respect to that island; those imputed projects are indeed so absurd and so contrary to every principle by which the policy of Great Britain is guided, that it can hardly be necessary seriously to repudiate them; but I would remind your Excellency that the great wish of Her Majesty's Government in regard to these affairs has ever been to maintain the present state of territorial possession in Europe, because Her Majesty's Government are convinced that no material changes could be effected therein without leading to events which would involve Europe in war; and because they consider the preservation of peace to be one of the first objects, to the attainment of which the efforts of every European statesman should be directed. Upon general principles, therefore, they must wish to see the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies remain undismembered; and as to any desire which may be attributed to Her Majesty's Government to obtain possession of Sicily, it may be enough to say that the expense and embarrassment of such a possession would far more than counterbalance any possible advantage which Great Britain could derive from its acquisition.

If the Earl of Minto has hitherto failed in his endeavours to bring about the accommodation between His Sicilian Majesty and his subjects, which was so much desired by Her Majesty's Government, the causes must be sought in the hesitation of the Neapolitan Government to do betimes that which was right; in the want of confidence which their previous conduct had engendered in the minds of their subjects; and in the evil counsels to which they may have lent too willing an ear. Her Majesty's Government however still hope that an arrangement may be made which will continue the union of Sicily and Naples under the same Crown.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 115.

The Right Hon. E. J. Stanley to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 16, 1848.

I AM directed by Viscount Palmerston to transmit for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a despatch* from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Naples, relative to certain rumours which have been circulated at Naples injurious to the character of the officers in command of Her Majesty's vessels of war stationed at Palermo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. J. STANLEY.

No. 116.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

Sir,

Admiralty, March 17, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of two copies from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker dated the 1st and 2nd instant, with their inclosures in original, being a correspondence between Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" and General Pronio at Messina.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 116.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples Bay, March 1, 1848.

AS various accounts are published of the line of conduct pursued by Her Majesty's ships at Messina and Palermo, I feel it right to put the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in possession of all official documents that have passed on which questions may be raised. I therefore inclose for their information the copies of letters between Captain Codrington and the General commanding the Royal troops at Messina on the subject of a firing having occurred between the hostile parties during the period of a flag of truce proceeding to the "Thetis" as a point of communication for the contending parties.

I also transmit the copy of a letter which I have addressed to Lord Napier on the subject of a tricolour pendant being displayed by Her Majesty's ship over the Neapolitan flag on occasions of salutes and ceremonies in which we may have to participate.

I did not of course touch on this subject until the example was set at the Palace flag-staff and the different fortresses as well as the Neapolitan ships of war. But I think the introduction of this constitutional symbol in the shape of a tricolour would be gratifying to the Neapolitans as well as the Sicilians generally, and increase if possible the popularity in which the English are at present held.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

* See No. 101.

Inclosure 2 in No. 116.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Hibernia," Naples, February 29, 1848.

HAVING observed that since the Neapolitan Constitution was confirmed on the 24th instant, all the Neapolitan ships of war and fortresses wear a tricolour pendant of green, white, and red, horizontally divided over the Neapolitan colours, and supposing that it will be acceptable to the Government that the same symbol should be displayed by Her Majesty's ships with the Neapolitan colours whenever they may be hoisted on any occasion of salute or compliment; I beg the favour of your Lordship to ascertain what the feelings of the Government may be on this subject, that similar colours may be prepared for display by Her Majesty's ships, if not unacceptable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 116.

Captain Codrington to General Pronio.

Sir,

"Thetis," off Messina, February 24, 1848.

I HAVE to inform you that the boat, with its officers and crew, that were sent to me by you under a flag of truce with a letter from yourself to the Comitato reached this ship this evening, having narrowly escaped being interrupted by the Messinese gun-boats in consequence of the fire being re-opened from the citadel. As it would be highly dangerous to the boat to return to you to-night, under these circumstances I have allowed her to remain on board of this ship for the present, intending to see that she reaches you in safety to-morrow morning.

But I must draw your attention to what I consider a most extraordinary thing amongst civilized nations, namely, that shortly after you had dispatched a flag of truce to bring me an official communication to be sent through this ship to the Comitato, the citadel under your command re-opened its fire on a community which during the last twenty hours of this second bombardment had refrained from returning a shot.

Should you think fit to hold any further communications under cover of a flag of truce, I trust that a regard for the lives of those who are the bearers of it will induce you to conform to the rules of civilized warfare usual in such cases, as otherwise it will be almost impossible for me to protect from its assailants that which will not then be a flag of truce.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. J. CODRINGTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 116.

General Pronio to Captain Codrington.

Signore,

Citadella di Messina, 25 Febbraio, 1848.

AVENDO letto il contenuto della sua lettera di jeri, ricevuta per mezzo dell' ufficiale Signor Acton, mi affretto risponderle che i colpi intesi mentre che la lancia era in servizio parlamentario furono due tiri di risposta ad un tirato dalla città mentre che gli ordini erano dati di cessare il fuoco per far rispettare la bandiera parlamentaria.

Jeri sera poi all' ora tarda, la citadella fù obbligata di tirare due colpi della parte dell' Arsenaie di Marina, giacchè vi erano molti fuochi indicanti dei lavori militari che si facevano.

Amerei intanto che avendo io preso il comando di questa piazza e bramando di non spargere un inutile sangue che puote solo recare

danno alla causa della Corona, del paese, e della causa comune, si agisse di accordo fra tutte le parti, dovendosi ben riflettere che nel momento si stipulano accordi nella capitale pel bene comune, questi potrebbero essere distolti da scene ben contrarie all' attuale spirito pubblico.

Per maggiormente farle conoscere quali sono le mie intenzione, le acchiudo una copia della manifestazione rimessa jeri al Comitato di Messina per di lei mezzo.

Il General Comandante le Armi,
(Firmato) PAOLO PRONIO.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Citadel of Messina, February 25, 1848.*

HAVING read the contents of your letter of yesterday, received by means of Mr. Acton, I hasten to reply that the guns heard while the boat was under a flag of truce were two fired in return for one fired from the city, whilst the orders had been given to cease firing to cause the flag of truce to be respected.

Yesterday evening at a late hour the citadel was obliged to fire two shots at a part of the arsenal of the Marina, as there were there many lights indicating that military operations were being carried on.

Having taken command of this place and wishing to avoid an useless effusion of blood, which can only bring injury to the cause of the Crown, of the country, and to the common cause, I could wish that all parties should act in accord, bearing well in mind that at the time negotiations are being carried on at the capital for the common good, these might be broken off by scenes so contrary to the present public spirit.

In order that you may be better acquainted with my intentions, I inclose a copy of my manifesto, sent yesterday to the Committee of Messina through you.

The General Commanding the Force,
(Signed) PAOLO PRONIO.

Inclosure 5 in No. 116.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary the Admiralty.

Sir, *"Hibernia," Naples Bay, March 2, 1848.*

AS Lord Minto is dispatching a messenger to England, I avail myself of the opportunity to forward for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copies of communications which have passed between Captain Codrington, of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," and the Neapolitan General commanding the Royal troops at Messina, in continuation of his correspondence forwarded in my letter of the 1st instant.

2. The Neapolitan troops made a sortie from the citadel on the 25th ultimo, without succeeding in their object of recovering the outworks which had been taken by the insurgents, who on the 28th February (the date of my latest private accounts) had several batteries of mortars and guns playing on the citadel, but I believe they are now aware that the fortress is too strong to be reduced by the means they possess.

3. I understand they have sent a communication to this effect to the General Committee at Palermo, and that they are more disposed to submit to terms of accommodation by which peace may be restored.

4. It was supposed that the number of casualties had not exceeded 6 killed and 30 wounded on each side.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 6 in No 116.

General Pronio to Captain Codrington.

Signor Comandante,

Citadella, 25 Febbraio, 1848.

PER mezzo del Signore Alfieri di Vascello Acton ho ricevuto risposta verbale alla lettera da me inviata questa mattina stessa, ed attendo avviso circa la risposta del Comitato di Messina per la proposta conferenza da tenersi.

Intanto essendosi costruita nella scorsa notte e questa mattina, della parte della città due batterie, una cioè avanti la porta di Terranova, e l'altra verso il Forte Gonzaga, così mi è forza di distruggerle.

E però comincerò ad aggire su di esse, e quando ella mi farà conoscere che si è fissato di conferire, farò subito sospendere ogni ostilità.

Il General Comandante le Armi,

(Firmato)

PAOLO PRONIO.

(Translation.)

Signor Commandant,

Citadel, February 25, 1848.

I HAVE received through Lieutenant Acton a verbal reply to the letter sent by me this morning, and I am waiting for information relative to the reply of the Comitato of Messina as to holding the proposed conference.

In the meantime two batteries having been constructed on the part of the city in the course of last night and this morning, one before the gate of Terranova and the other towards the Fort Gonzaga, I am under the necessity of destroying them.

I shall therefore begin to fire upon them, and when you inform me that a conference is determined on I will immediately suspend all hostilities.

The General Commandant,

(Signed)

PAOLO PRONIO.

Inclosure 7 in No. 116.

Captain Codrington to General Pronio.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 107.]

No. 117.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

Sir,

Admiralty, March 18, 1848.

HAVING laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 16th instant with its inclosures relative to the alleged assistance rendered to the insurgents at Palermo by officers of the British Navy, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you for the information of Viscount Palmerston, that the detailed reports transmitted by the officers commanding Her Majesty's ships at Palermo, Messina, and other points upon the coast of Sicily where civil dissensions have occurred, contain the best proofs that no such interference as that alluded to in Lord Napier's letter has taken place, but that the efforts of Her Majesty's officers have been directed exclusively to the protection of the persons and properties of Her Majesty's subjects, and to occasional attempts to prevent unnecessary effusion of blood. Copies of these reports have been sent to the Foreign Department as received, and Lord Palmerston is consequently as well enabled as the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty

to judge in how far the intentions of Her Majesty's Government have been carried out by Her Majesty's officers, and whether there is any justice in this attempt to pervert into improper and partial interference those good offices which they have rendered as mediators, and which have been as often solicited by the officers of the King of Naples as by the insurgents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

No. 118.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 20.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 7, 1848.

I MUST leave it to Lord Napier to acquaint your Lordship with all that has passed here since the date of my last despatches, as I have barely time before I embark for Palermo for a few lines to announce the satisfactory conclusion of my negotiation here respecting the affairs of Sicily, which appear now to be in a fair train of adjustment.

Having been for several days in communication with Prince Cariati upon the subject, I yesterday in concert with him submitted a proposal to the King, who in the course of the day desired to see me and expressed a wish that I should be present at a meeting of his Council, where eleven of the most considerable of the Sicilians now resident in Naples had also been invited to attend.

The Sicilian Parliament being actually summoned to meet on the 25th instant, and the intelligence of the revolution in France having reached Naples, it became evident that there was no time to be lost in placing the King at the head of a Constitutional Government in Sicily before there should arise any question of his deposition.

I therefore proposed that the Parliament convoked by the Committee of Palermo should be legalized by a summons for the same day by the King. This was supported by all the Sicilians present, by four new Ministers just appointed, and by all but three of the old Cabinet, and after a discussion which lasted from 6 o'clock in the afternoon till past 2 in the morning, was finally agreed to.

A Sicilian Lord Lieutenant and Ministers were named, and it was decided that all interests common to the two countries should be left to the two Parliaments. Nothing is said of the army.

This is practically a separation of the two States under one Sovereign, but I believe it to be better calculated to combine their strength and maintain their connection than any attempt to establish a forced union would have proved.

My first object at Palermo will be to negotiate an armistice, and I have written to Messina urging in the meantime a suspension of hostilities on both sides.

I have every reason to hope that the Sicilians will be satisfied with what is done, and will accept the arrangement; and in this case we shall have saved Sicily for the King, which was ready to slip out of his hands.

I have strongly advised the King to hasten as much as possible the meeting of the Neapolitan Parliament; and this I believe will be done.

The King has thanked me in the handsomest terms for the assistance I have given him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 119.

The Right Hon. E. J. Stanley to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 23, 1848.

WITH reference to your letter of the 18th instant relative to the alleged assistance rendered to the insurgents at Palermo by officers of the British Navy, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's Government never attached the slightest credit to these calumnious reports, the offspring of political jealousy.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. J. STANLEY.

No 120.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 24.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 9, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship of the 29th ultimo, inclosing copy of an instruction to Her Majesty's Consul at Messina, requiring information relative to the burning of the Porto Franco at that city, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of Mr. Barker's reply, and extract of an official letter from Captain Codrington to General Pronio, communicated by Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, in the same sense.

In consequence of the tenor of these communications I have addressed the accompanying note to his Excellency Prince Cariati, holding the Neapolitan Government responsible to that of Her Majesty for the damage inflicted on the property of British subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 120.

Consul Barker to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Messina, March 6, 1848.

YOUR Lordship's despatch of the 29th February reached me this morning.

Referring to my letter of the 4th instant, sent to Naples by Her Majesty's steamer "Odin," it is evident I was aware some apology was necessary to your Lordship, since it will be hardly possible the nature of my active duties should be known, so far off as Naples is from the scene of action, and the moving a mile and a half from my dwelling house in the city on the 17th February, opposite to Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," after suffering the most annoying bombardment for two hours from the citadel. Till that time the house had escaped shells and balls, but it has since suffered considerably. My books and sundry matters necessary in the office were left behind; thus I have been impeded in the discharge of my duty.

I herewith inclose to your Lordship sundry printed papers which will detail many of the occurrences that have passed, and subjoin a statement of events happening since the 22nd ultimo.

On the 23rd the citadel and Fort Salvatore without any provocation opened a fire upon the town, directing indiscriminately their missiles; it continued the whole of that day and night, with short intervals, it was

followed the greater part of the subsequent day. On the 23rd three Neapolitan war-steamers landed some artillerymen in the citadel, and General Cardamone was replaced by General Pronio in the command of that fort.

On the 25th the soldiers made a sortie, but the insurgents obliged them to retreat into the citadel.

In the afternoon of the 26th the soldiers again attempted to make a sortie, while the citadel and Fort Salvadore directed their fire of shot and shell to some of the heights around the city suspected of being fortified by the insurgents.

On the 27th the citadel and Salvadore opened their fire upon the batteries of the revolters, who in return kept up a brisk fire against those forts.

On the 28th and 29th, after many vain attempts of the people to extinguish the fire in the Porto Franco, the merchants and my son Robert, from 7 P.M. to 4 A.M., notwithstanding the shot from the citadel against that spot, succeeded to remove to a safe place such goods as had not yet been burned.

From the 1st of March up to this date the citadel and Fort Salvadore with short intervals continue to throw their missiles on certain particular points of the town suspected of being fortified by the insurgents, and against the streets leading into the Marina, which have been barricaded.

The soldiers abandoned the Porto Franco on the 22nd ultimo, but that place has never been occupied by the Sicilian forces, nor did they ever show the least inclination to do so.

The Porto Franco is not in the line of fire from the citadel towards any other position beyond or above it, and it is my firm opinion that it was wantonly and deliberately set on fire by the garrison of the citadel.

I shall in due time forward to your Lordship an enumeration and estimate of the various losses incurred by British subjects and foreign merchants who hold British property, by the burning of the Porto Franco and by the fire of the citadel and other forts.

The principal heights around Messina have been well armed with heavy guns and mortars by the insurgents, and to-morrow they will attack the citadel and Fort Salvadore.

Inclosure 2 in No. 120.

Captain Codrington to General Pronio.

(Extract.)

February 29, 1848.

I NOW come to your assertion, in contradiction to my letter, that the Porto Franco was not set on fire by the shells from the citadel, but that it was the work of some incendiary on the side of the people, and subsequently of the shells fired at the citadel from the Noviziato. As this is a direct contradiction to my former statement, I beg your Excellency to take notice that on the 22nd I myself, as well as other officers of this ship, besides officers of other nations, distinctly saw the citadel fire shell on the Porto Franco, which hit it, and which occasioned the fire which instantly broke out at the very spot where the shell had exploded.

On that occasion the fire was extinguished at night by people sent by the Comitato, some of the foreign Consuls, as well as the boats and pumps of the foreign ships, being present together with myself at the time.

On that occasion as on several subsequent visits I found the store-houses of the Porto Franco carefully locked and properly secured by its usual guardians, and I have not observed any signs of pillage there.

On the 23rd the citadel and St. Salvadore, without one minute's warning to any one, again commenced a bombardment of the town, which was continued from before 11 A.M. through the rest of that day and night, and with short intervals during a great part of the next day. On this

occasion also we again distinctly saw shells fired from the citadel strike the Porto Franco, explode in it, and set it on fire, and this was at a time when in consequence of the Comitato having ordered their fire to be reserved, no missiles were being thrown from the town against the citadel.

This has again repeatedly occurred since then, and in spite of the assurance in your letter of the 28th that you had given orders that no molestation should be given to the operations of the merchants in endeavouring to extricate their property. I have myself, when on the spot yesterday, seen the workmen while endeavouring to extinguish the fire for that purpose, driven away by a fresh discharge from the citadel.

This is no mere assertion but a solid testimony that we depose to.

Your Excellency will excuse my taking no notice in future of assertions impugning the truth of these statements.

Your Excellency asserts that the Porto Franco was fired by shells thrown at the citadel from the batteries on the Noviziato. You will see how completely you have deceived yourself when I tell you that I examined those batteries myself yesterday (as no firing was going on), and that there was not then, nor had been from the beginning, one single mortar or gun throwing shells placed on that spot. Shot have gone to yon from thence, but no shell as yet.

Inclosure 3 in No. 120.

Lord Napier to Prince Cariatì.

Naples, March 9, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to convey to his Excellency the Prince of Cariatì, &c., extract of a despatch which the Undersigned has received from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Messina, in answer to particular inquiries addressed to him by the Undersigned, and by which it appears that the Porto Franco of Messina has been intentionally and wantonly set on fire by a bombardment directed upon it by the citadel in the absence of all provocation or necessity which could justify such a measure, and that a great amount of merchandize belonging to British subjects has been thus destroyed.

The Undersigned has also the honour to add the accompanying extract of an official letter from Captain Codrington, of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," to General Pronio, communicated to the Undersigned by Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, containing a deliberate statement to the same purpose.

The Undersigned is consequently under the necessity of protesting against the bombardment of the Porto Franco of Messina, and reserving to Her Britannic Majesty's Government the right to demand compensation for all losses and prejudice in their persons and property which British subjects may have incurred thereby.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 121.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 24.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 11, 1848.

BY a letter from Captain Codrington of the 9th instant, I am informed that on the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Porcupine" at Messina with intelligence of the concession of the Constitution of 1812 and the

departure of the Earl of Minto for Palermo, a short suspension of hostilities on the part of the insurgent forces was obtained.

The General Commandant of the citadel at once agreed to the cessation of firing, but the fort of St. Salvador was reduced to silence with much difficulty and reluctance.

The Committee would not perhaps have been averse to an armistice, but they were intimidated by the populace in the streets, who brandished their arms and shouted "Guerra! guerra!"

On the morning of the 9th instant a meeting was held on board Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" between the chiefs of the Comitato and the King's Envoy, which resulted in a resolution to continue the war. The flag of truce was accordingly hauled down and the batteries opened on both sides.

Captain Codrington is however of opinion that a truce might be established by orders to that effect from the General Committee of Palermo, which it is to be hoped will have been already obtained by the Earl of Minto.

I have hitherto received no intelligence from the Earl of Minto.

The news of the revolution at Paris had reached Messina before the arrival of Her Majesty's steam-ship "Porcupine."

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 122.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 24.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 12, 1848.

THE arrival of the French steam vessel of war "Descartes" from Palermo has put me in possession of intelligence from the Earl of Minto of yesterday's date.

His Lordship found the General Committee so much excited by the news from Paris that they had departed from the terms of mediation originally proposed by them, and resolved to insist on concessions altogether inadmissible and hostile to the union of the Crowns of Sicily and Naples.

In a subsequent interview it is true the deputation of the General Committee modified their demands, but Lord Minto still found himself unable to land or to enter into formal negotiation.

The deputation first desired the separation of the Crowns and the election to that of Sicily of the King's son, in conformity with an Article of the Constitution of 1812.

They afterwards agreed to propose to the Committee a Lord Lieutenant, endowed however with the power of sanctioning laws passed by Parliament.

The Earl of Minto expressed his intention to return to Naples in two or three days should the Committee refuse to accede to more reasonable terms. In the meantime orders have been sent to Messina and Syracuse to effect a suspension of hostilities.

I have communicated the substance of the Earl of Minto's letter to M. Scovazzo, Minister for Sicilian Affairs at the Court of the King, and to Prince Cariati, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 123.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 24.)

(Extract.)

Naples, March 13, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith the letter from the Earl of Minto of which I have transmitted the substance in my despatch of yesterday's date.

The Neapolitan Council have not had time to give their consideration to Sicilian affairs, which have indeed receded to a secondary importance before the serious apprehensions of impending disturbance in the capital.

At the moment I am writing there is a riotous assemblage in the great street of the Toledo with cries of "Vivà la Republica!" I believe that sentiment to be confined to a very small and unimportant faction, but there is such a want of energy in the Government, that no occurrence would surprise me.

Inclosure in No. 123.

The Earl of Minto to Lord Napier.

My dear Napier,

Palermo, March 11, 1848.

I FOUND people here so much elated by the French Revolution as to have lost sight of their former professions and to have made up their minds to agree to nothing less than the transfer of the Crown of Sicily to the next heir, in conformity with the Constitution of 1812.

A deputation of the Committee came on board to me as soon as we had anchored, and a great preparation was made on shore for my reception, but finding from M. Stabile that they declined to acknowledge the King's sovereignty and intended to insist upon other conditions than those which they had applied to me to negotiate for them, I refused to land or in any manner to treat with them, unless they first recognized the union of the Crowns; and I have accordingly remained on board.

This morning I have received a message from the sub-Committee desiring to know when I would receive them again, and I expect them every moment. If the "Descartes" does not sail before I have seen them you shall be informed of the result of our conference, but you may take it for granted that I shall not flinch from the determination I announced to them of requiring their recognition of the King, as the basis of any arrangement in which I could take a part.

They acknowledge that the terms obtained are what would have been thankfully received a fortnight ago, and only complain that the separation of the armies is not distinctly provided for; but they represent that the new prospects opened by the French Revolution are such as to justify them in forming new views.

I have endeavoured to make them clearly understand that they will lose the support of England should they persist in their present designs; and that our good wishes would attend any measures, from whatever quarter, which might be resorted to for the purpose of maintaining the union of the Crowns of Naples and Sicily.

It is said that all the respectable classes including the National Guard are anxious for accommodation on the terms now offered, but that the leaders of the *squadre* (armed bands) are opposed to any change which would deprive them of the position and advantages they now enjoy, and that the Provisional Government is very much at their mercy and cannot venture to consult its own wishes. All this is the fruit of the obstinacy of the Government in the early period of our negotiations, when peace might have been secured on easy terms instead of being purchased as may be the case now by the surrender of the Crown of Sicily.

I have now had my conference with Signor Stabile and the sub-Committee. They have undertaken to propose to the General Committee the recognition of the King, understanding that the Luogotenente is to have the power of passing Acts of Parliament, and that the administration is to be independent.

In the meanwhile orders will go to-night by the "Locust" for the conclusion of an armistice at Syracuse and Messina. The Committee will continue to carry on the Government till the meeting of Parliament; and my impression is that nothing will be formally concluded (except the armistice) before that time. After the elections, however, Signor Stabile says they may be better able to judge what they may venture to engage for. I do not expect to remain here above two or three days more, as I will not treat with them except as subjects of the King, and have therefore nothing to do except privately to preach moderation. The armistice will give time for further negotiation at Naples, where they ought to make no difficulties. Pray let Prince Cariati know all this.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 124.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 28, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 7th instant, reporting your Lordship's intention to embark for Sicily, I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve of the course pursued by you on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 125.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. F. J. Stanley.

Sir,

Admiralty, March 28, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker dated the 11th instant, relating to the affairs of Sicily and the arrangements he has made for the distribution of the ships of the line in the Mediterranean.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 11, 1848.

WITH reference to my letter of the 7th instant I request you will inform the Lords of the Admiralty that Lord Minto embarked in the "Hibernia" on the evening of that day, when Her Majesty's squadron consisting of the "Hibernia," "Trafalgar," "Superb," and "Bulldog," immediately put to sea and arrived in Palermo Bay yesterday afternoon.

Intelligence of the Revolution in France having been previously received here the General Committee are now unwilling to accept the terms of mediation which had been before agreed on. It is therefore uncertain whether Lord Minto will feel himself at liberty to disembark at Palermo, in which case his Lordship will probably return with the squadron to Naples.

I propose on my departure to leave the "Gladiator," which is now accidentally here, for the protection of English subjects, and replace her at Messina by the "Hecate," withdrawing the "Vengeance" from hence, as I think her presence no longer necessary, and that it is advisable at this crisis to keep the line-of-battle ships collected.

It is my intention to direct Rear-Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis to detain the "Queen" at Malta until he has further instructions from me.

Captain Robb informs me that the insurgents had opened their batteries on the Neapolitan troops three days before he left Messina, and that after the first evening their shells were dropped with tolerable precision into the citadel, and the fort of St. Salvador had suffered so much that it was expected that the Neapolitan troops would be compelled to abandon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 126.

Decrees issued by the King of Naples on the 6th of March, and published at Naples in the "Giornale" newspaper the 8th of March.

Ferdinando II, &c.

VOLENDO particolarmente provvedere agli affari di Sicilia ;

Abbiamo risoluto di decretare e decretiamo quanto segue :

Art. 1. Vi sarà un Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli affari di Sicilia residente in Napoli presso la nostra real persona, quando la nostra residenza non sarà in Sicilia.

Art. 2. Nominiamo Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli affari di Sicilia in Napoli, il Commendatore D. Gaetano Scovazzo.

Art. 3. Il nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato Presidente del Consiglio de' Ministri è incaricato della esecuzione del presente decreto.

Napoli, 6 Marzo, 1848.

(Firmato) FERDINANDO.
Il Ministro Segretario di Stato,
Presidente del Consiglio de' Ministri,
(Firmato) DUCA DI SERRACAPRIOLA.

Ferdinando II, &c.

Volendo permanentemente assicurare la prosperità, e le istituzioni parlamentarie pe' nostri sudditi Siciliani ;

Abbiamo determinato e determiniamo quanto segue :

Art. 1. E convocato in Palermo il Generale Parlamento per adattare a' tempi ed alle politiche convenienze la Costituzione del 1812, e provvedere a tutt' i bisogni della Sicilia, ferma rimanendo la dipendenza da unico Rè per la integrità della Monarchia.

Art. 2. A tal uopo le Camere de' Comuni e dei Pari si riuniranno in Palermo il giorno 25 Marzo corrente, solennità dell' Annunziazione di Maria Vergine.

Art. 3. Tutti i 23 distretti che, secondo il § 2 del cap. v. tit. 1 della Costituzione e la mappa annessavi infine, hanno dritto a mandare rappresentanti, ed il nuovo distretto di Aci-Reale posteriormente creato, nomineranno ne' loro capiluoghi rispettivi ciascuno due rappresentanti il giorno 18 del corrente Marzo.

Art. 4. Tutte le città e terre parlamentarie che secondo il § 3, 4, e 5 del

cennato capitolo, ed altre città che per leggi seguenti del Parlamento hanno diritto alla rappresentanza, procederanno all' elezione de' loro rappresentanti il giorno 15 del corrente Marzo.

Art. 5. Le città manderanno il numero de' rappresentanti corrispondenti alla loro popolazione, giusta il censo risultante dall' indice alfabetica de' comuni di Sicilia, con la indicazione della popolazione, compilato dalla direzione generale di Statistica in Agosto 1846, e pubblicato per le stampe in Palermo in detto anno, dimodochè le città che avranno raggiunto la cifra di 18 mila abitanti ne manderanno due, e quelle che avranno raggiunto la cifra di scimila ne manderanno uno.

Se però ve ne ha di quelle, che avevano il dritto di rappresentanza per la Costituzione del 1812, e dopo quell' epoca avranno diminnito di popolazione, manderanno ciò non ostante il numero di rappresentanti stabilito nella Costituzione.

Art. 6. L'Isola di Lipari eleggerà il suo rappresentante a' termini del § 7 della Costituzione al capitolo cennato.

Art. 7. Tutte le comuni inoltre che sono attualmente capi-luoghi di circondario, sebbene non abbiano la popolazione di scimila abitanti, manderanno pur nondimeno un rappresentante per una.

Art. 8. Le Università degli studii di Catania e di Messina manderanno un rappresentante per ciascheduna, e due quella di Palermo, in conformità del § 8 del cennato cap. v della Costituzione, tit. 1.

Art. 9. Mancando nel momento attuale le liste elettorali e tutt' i magistrati che la Costituzione ed i regolamenti richiedevano per procedersi all' elezioni, nè le circostanze permettendo gl' indugi della loro creazione, saranno elettori de' membri del prossimo General Parlamento:

I. Tutti i proprietari che possiedono una rendita vitalizia o perpetua di onze dieciotto, giusta il § 1 del cap. viii, tit. 1 della Costituzione.

II. I dottori o licenziati in qualunque siasi facoltà.

III. I membri delle Accademie letterarie, scientifiche et artistiche del regno.

IV. I professori delle Università degli Studj, i membri dell' Istituto d'Incoraggiamento, delle Società e delle Commissioni Economiche del regno.

V. Tutt' i commercianti iscritti ne' ruoli ultimi dell' abolita tassa di negozianti.

VI. Tutti gli artisti e maestri iscritti nelle liste delle Guardie Nazionali: ed in quei luoghi in cui non è ancora organizzata la Guardia Nazionale, tutti gli artisti ed i maestri che trovansi superiori o congiunti delle congregazioni laicali.

VII. Tutti coloro in fine che trovansi iscritti nelle liste degli eligibili comunali ultimamente pubblicate.

Art. 10. Non potranno esercitare il diritto elettorale:

I. Tutti coloro che non sanno leggere e scrivere, giusta il cap. x della Costituzione, al titolo della "Libertà, dritti e doveri del Cittadino."

II. Tutti coloro che sono esclusi dalla rappresentanza dal § i e ii del cap. vi, tit. 1 della Costituzione.

III. Gli accusati e que' che legalmente ne sono interdetti pe' soli reati comuni, giusta il Codice Penale attualmente in vigore.

Art. 11. Qualunque cittadino Siciliano che avesse una delle qualità anzidette per essere elettore, quando otterrà la maggioranza de' voti degli elettori, che voteranno nel giorno della elezione, sarà il rappresentante del distretto, della città o comune che l'avrà eletto, senza aver di bisogno di qualunque altro requisito, salvo che non incorra nell' esclusioni cennate nel paragrafo precedente.

Art. 12. I comitati provvisorj delle città e comuni, nelle quali deve procedersi all' elezioni, destineranno appena ricevuto il presente atto di convocazione, il luogo e l'ora in cui si dovranno effettuare le elezioni.

Sceglieranno a maggioranza di voti uno de' loro membri il quale di unita all' Arciprete, o Parroco o Curato o chi ne esercita le funzioni, ed al più anziano fra i Notai del comune, formeranno le Commissioni incaricate delle operazioni elettorali: il membro del Comitato scelto ne sarà il Presidente.

Queste Commissioni terranno, I. per due giorni precedenti a quello fissato come sopra per l'elezioni, un registro aperto disposto per alfabeto, nel quale andranno ad inscrivere il proprio nome, cognome, paternità, e domicilio, tutte le persone che hanno le qualità per essere elettori.

II. Veglieranno affinché non si inscrivessero persone che non ne hanno il

diritto; a quale effetto giudicheranno provvisoriamente se la persona che si presenta abbia o no le qualità di sopra richieste, salvo il richiamo alla Camera dei Comuni che ne deciderà definitivamente; ed in caso di ammissione le rilasceranno un biglietto a firma di tutti e tre, onde presentarlo nel giorno delle elezioni.

III. Presederanno nel detto giorno alle operazioni elettorali; raccoglieranno i voti; nomineranno due elettori a fare da squittinatori.

IV. In somma prenderanno tutte le misure convenienti perchè le elezioni si compiano con la massima tranquillità, e l'ordine più esatto, allontanando le persone che cercassero disturbarlo.

Art. 13. Le elezioni si faranno a votazioni segrete; cioè consegnando ogni elettore un bullettino in cui sia scritto il nome del suo candidato, in mano del Presidente della Commissione, che lo deporrà in una urna chiusa alla presenza dell'elettore, e degli altri due membri della Commissione.

Art. 14. Passata l'ora fissata per la votazione, il Presidente della Commissione ad uno ad uno trarrà dall'urna i bullettini, li leggerà ad alta voce, e li passerà successivamente agli altri due membri; ed i due squittinatori verranno scrivendo il nome del candidato coi voti successivi; quindi raccolti proclamerà il risultato della votazione; tutte le quali operazioni saranno fatte pubblicamente alla presenza degli elettori.

Art. 15. Se nessuno de' proposti otterrà un voto più della metà de' voti espressi, si passerà a votare in iscritto, e segretamente per sì e per no sopra ciascuno de' proposti, cominciando da colui che avrà ottenuto più voti, e così continuando sino a che si arriverà al nome di colui che otterrà uno più della metà dei voti.

Art. 16. Nessuno potrà presentarsi armato per iscrivere il suo nome ne' registri o per votare nelle elezioni, sotto pena di non potere più votare in questa elezione.

Art. 17. Compiuta la elezione, le Commissioni elettorali rilasceranno un attestato della elezione al rappresentante eletto munito delle loro firme; copia del quale anche da loro sottoscritta, e vistata dal presidente del comitato locale, invieranno al nostro Luogotenente-Generale, che la presenterà alla Camera de' Comuni appena riunita. Redigeranno un verbale delle operazioni elettorali, che insieme al registro degli elettori conserveranno sotto suggello a disposizione della Camera de' Comuni.

Art. 18. Nelle città che hanno più parrocchie, le commissioni elettorali saranno composte da un membro del comitato scelto a maggioranza di voti come all'Articolo 12 per ciascuna parrocchia, dal parroco di essa, e dal notaio più anziano ivi domiciliato.

Queste commissioni si limiteranno alle operazioni preliminari sino alla raccolta de' bullettini; quindi si riuniranno tutte le commissioni di tutte le parrocchie nella Casa Comunale dove si farà lo spoglio dei bullettini, e si passerà a dichiarare eletto colui (o coloro, quando i rappresentanti devono essere più d'uno) che riuniranno la maggioranza de' voti complessivi di tutte le parrocchie come all'Art. 13.

Art. 19. Tutti i Pari temporali indicati nel § II del cap. iv. tit. i. della Costituzione e nella mappa annessavi in fine, o in loro mancanza i loro successori nel titolo, secondocchè la successione si trovava stabilita nelle particolari famiglie nel 1812; e tutt' i Pari ecclesiastici indicati nel § stesso, e nella stessa mappa, sederanno nella Camera dei Pari.

Art. 20. Sono esclusi dalle Parie temporali i non Siciliani, e dalle spirituali gli ecclesiastici non Siciliani, e coloro che le possedessero in Commenda.

Art. 21. E siccome molte Parie temporali sono oggi estinte, o possedute da non Siciliani; e molte Parie spirituali sono vacanti, ovvero possedute da Comendatori o da Prelati non Siciliani; così per restituire la Camera de' Pari al numero al quale, secondo la mappa annessa alla Costituzione giungeva nell'ultima sessione, sarà completata nel modo seguente:

La Camera de' Comuni legittimamente costituita, ed eseguite per quella de' Pari le formalità indicate nell'Art. 23, presesterà alla Camera de' Pari tante terne separate di persone laiche ed ecclesiastiche, per quante Parie temporali ed ecclesiastiche sono rispettivamente mancanti.

E siccome non si tratta di costituire in persona degli eletti una Paria definitiva, così qualunque sarà eleggibile alla Camera de' Comuni potrà essere compreso nella terna de' Pari mancanti.

La Camera de' Pari sceglierà necessariamente sulla nota tripla presentata da quella de' Comuni entro tre giorni dal dì della presentazione; e dove trascuri di farlo il primo nominata in terna sarà di dritto il Pari eletto.

Art. 22. La Camera de' Pari e quella de' Comuni si riuniranno in locali per questa prima volta preparati dal nostro Luogotenente-Generale, sotto la presidenza del più vecchio fra' Membri presenti di ciascheduna Camera, per procedere all' elezione de' loro rispettivi Presidenti e Vice-Presidenti, ed alla verifica de' titoli de' loro membri rispettivi.

Art. 23. Appena eletto il Presidente, la Camera de' Pari non potrà passare ad altri atti, se prima non invierà a quella de' Comuni la lista delle Parie temporali e ecclesiastiche vacanti.

Se la Camera de' Comuni non la giudicherà esatta, un comitato misto di venti membri della Camera de' Comuni e di altrettanti di quella de' Pari sotto la presidenza del Presidente della Camera de' Comuni fisserà definitivamente la lista, e si procederà immediatamente alla proposta delle terne supplementarie come all' Articolo 21.

Art. 24. In tutte le misure in cui sarà divergenza di opinione fra le due Camere, un comitato misto come all' Art. precedente composto, e sempre eletto all' uopo pel caso speciale, deciderà.

Le Camere sono obbligate a scegliere entro il termine di otto giorni il loro Comitato, spirato il quale la Camera più diligente farà la scelta nell' altra.

I comitati misti sono in numero legale quando vi sono riuniti due terzi dell' intero numero.

Art. 25. I due Parlamenti di Napoli e di Sicilia si metteranno di accordo per tutto ciò che può riguardare interessi comuni.

Art. 26. Il nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli Affari di Sicilia residente presso la nostra Reale Persona, ed il nostro Luogotenente-Generale in Sicilia sono incaricati della esecuzione del presente Atto Sovrano, ciascun per la parte che lo riguarda.

Napoli, 6 Marzo, 1848.

(Firmato) FERDINANDO.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli Affari
di Sicilia presso Sua Maestà,

(Firmato) G. SCOVAZZO.

Ferdinando II, &c.

Affine di provvedere in Sicilia allo spedito andamento della sua amministrazione;

Sulla proposizione del nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli affari di Sicilia presso di noi residente;

Abbiamo risoluto di decretare e decretiamo quanto segue:

Art. 1. Vi sarà in Sicilia un nostro Luogotenente-Generale, il quale sarà scelto da noi o tra i Principi della nostra Real Famiglia, o tra distinti personaggi di quell' isola.

Art. 2. Il Luogotenente-Generale avrà presso di se per ora tre Ministri Segretarii di Stato, addetti a' dicasteri di Grazia e Giustizia, e degli Affari Ecclesiastici, Interno, e Finanze.

Art. 3. I tre Ministri riuniti sotto la presidenza del Luogotenente-Generale comporranno il Consiglio de' Ministri, il quale sarà assistito da un Segretario col grado di Direttore di Ministero di Stato, che ne terrà il protocollo.

Art. 4. Le facoltà del Luogotenente-Generale per lo esercizio delle sue alte funzioni, il modo di trattar gli affari nel Consiglio de' Ministri, e quello della corrispondenza del Governo dell' isola col Ministro degli affari di Sicilia presso di noi residente, faranno materia di apposite istruzioni.

Art. 5. Ci riserviamo di provvedere con altro decreto agli appuntamenti del Luogotenente-Generale, de' Ministri, e del Direttore da Segretario.

Art. 6. Il nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli affari di Sicilia presso di noi residente è incaricato della esecuzione del presente decreto.

Napoli, 6 Marzo, 1848.

(Firmato) FERDINANDO.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli Affari
di Sicilia presso Sua Maestà,

(Firmato) G. SCOVAZZO.

Ferdinando II, &c.

Veduto il decreto di questa stessa data per lo quale abbiain provveduto alla forma organica del Governo di Sicilia ;

Sulla proposizione del nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli affari di Sicilia presso di noi residente ;

Abbiamo risoluto di decretare e decretiamo quanto segue :

Art. 1. Nominiamo nostro Luogotenente-Generale in Sicilia il Retro-Ammiraglio Don Ruggiero Settimo de' Principi di Fitalia, il quale prenderà subito lo esercizio delle sue funzioni.

Art. 2. Conferiamo al medesimo la facoltà di aprire nel nostro Real nome le Camere Legislative del General Parlamento convocato in Palermo pel giorno 25 del corrente Marzo.

Art. 3. Il nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli affari di Sicilia presso noi residente è incaricato della esecuzione del presente decreto.

Napoli, 6 Marzo, 1848.

(Firmato) FERDINANDO.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli Affari
di Sicilia presso Sua Maestà,

(Firmato) G. SCOVAZZO.

Ferdinando II, &c.

Veduti i due decreti di questa stessa data, coll' uno de' quali abbiamo provveduto alla forma organica del Governo di Sicilia, e con l'altro abbiamo nominato a nostro Luogotenente-Generale in quell' isola il Retro-Ammiraglio Don Ruggiero Settimo de' Principi di Fitalia ;

Sulla proposizione del nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli affari di Sicilia presso di noi residente ;

Abbiamo risoluto di decretare e decretiamo quanto segue :

Art. 1. Nominiamo Ministri Segretari di Stato presso il nostro Luogotenente-Generale in Sicilia ;

Per lo dicastero di Grazia e Giustizia e degli Affari Ecclesiastici, l'Avvocato Don Pasquale Calvi ;

Per quello dell' Interno, Don Pietro Lanza, Principe di Scordia ;

Per quello delle Finanze, Don Vincenzo Fardella, Marchese di Torreaarsa.

Art. 2. Nominiamo Segretario del Consiglio de' Ministri col grado di Direttore di Stato, Don Mariano Stabile.

Art. 3. Il nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli affari di Sicilia presso di noi residente, ed il nostro Luogotenente-Generale in Sicilia sono incaricati della esecuzione del presente decreto.

Napoli, 6 Marzo, 1848.

(Firmato) FERDINANDO.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli Affari
di Sicilia presso Sua Maestà,

(Firmato) G. SCOVAZZO.

Ferdinando II, &c.

Volendo provvisoriamente dettare una formola di giuramento da prestarsi dagli impiegati politici, civili e militari in Sicilia ;

Sulla proposizione del nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli affari di Sicilia presso di noi residente ;

Abbiamo risoluto di decretare e decretiamo quanto segue :

Art. 1. Tutti gl' impiegati politici e civili in Sicilia, di qual sia grado e qualità, non potranno esercitare i loro rispettivi uffizi ed impieghi se non avranno prima prestato il giuramento di fedeltà e di obbedienza a noi ed alla Costituzione esistente, secondo la formola che segue.

“ Io N. N. (nome e qualità) prometto e giuro innanzi a Dio fedeltà ed obbedienza a Rè Ferdinando II, ed esatta osservanza degli ordini suoi.

“ Prometto e giuro di adempire col massimo zelo e colla massima probità ed onoratezza, le funzioni a me affidate.

“ Prometto e giuro di osservare e fare osservare la Costituzione esistente.

“ Prometto e giuro di osservare e fare osservare le leggi ed i decreti, ed ¹

regolamenti attualmente in vigore e quelli che saranno per lo avvenire sanzionati e pubblicati dal Rè ne' termini della Costituzione medesima.

"Prometto e giuro di non volere appartenere ora nè mai a qualsivoglia associazione segreta.

"Così Dio mi ajuti."

Art. 2. Lo stesso giuramento dovranno prestare tutti gl' impiegati militari, ma per essi alla formola di sopra scritta si aggiungerà la seguente:

"Prometto e giuro di difendere anche con la effusione di tutto il mio sangue le bandiere (e gli stendardi) che Sua Maestà si è degnata di affidarmi."

Art. 3. Per la prestazione di questo giuramento saranno osservati inoltre i regolamenti in vigore.

Art. 4. Il nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli affari di Sicilia presso di noi residente, il nostro Luogotenente-Generale in Sicilia, ed i Ministri Segretari di Stato presso il medesimo sono incaricati della esecuzione del presente decreto.

Napoli, 6 Marzo, 1848.

(Firmato) FERDINANDO.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato per gli Affari
di Sicilia presso Sua Maestà,

(Firmato) G. SCOVAZZO.

(Translation.)

Ferdinand II, &c.

WISHING especially to make provisions for the affairs of Sicily, we have resolved to decree and we decree as follows:—

Art. 1. There shall be a Minister Secretary of State for the affairs of Sicily, resident in Naples, near our royal person, whenever our residence shall not be in Sicily.

Art. 2. We nominate the Commendatore D. Gaetano Scovazzo, Minister Secretary of State for the affairs of Sicily in Naples.

Art. 3. Our Minister Secretary of State, President of the Council of Ministers, is entrusted with the execution of the present decree.

Naples, March 6, 1848.

(Signed) FERDINAND.

The Minister Secretary of State,

President of the Council of Ministers,

(Signed) DUCA DI SERRACAPRIOLA.

Ferdinand II, &c.

BEING desirous of permanently securing prosperity and Parliamentary institutions for our Sicilian subjects, we have determined and we determine as follows:—

Art. 1. A General Parliament is convoked in Palermo, to adapt the Constitution of 1812 to the times and to political considerations, and to make provisions for all the necessities of Sicily; the dependance on a single King to be retained without change for the integrity of the monarchy.

Art. 2. For this purpose the Chambers of Commons and Peers shall assemble in Palermo on the 25th day of March instant, the feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.

Art. 3. All the 23 districts which, according to sec. 2, chap. 5, title I of the Constitution, and to the table at the end of the same, have the right of sending representatives, and the new district of Aci-Reale subsequently created, shall on the 18th day of March instant, in their respective chief towns, each nominate two representatives.

Art. 4. All the cities and parliamentary towns which, according to sections 3, 4, and 5 of the above chapter, and by the subsequent laws of Parliament, have the representative right, shall proceed to elect their representatives on the 15th day of March instant.

Art. 5. The cities shall send the number of representatives corresponding with their population, according to the census given in the alphabetical index

of the townships (*comuni*), with the amount of population, compiled in August 1846 by the General Statistical Department, and printed and published at Palermo in the same year, so that the towns which have a population amounting to 18,000 inhabitants shall elect two, and those which have 6000 shall send one.

If, moreover, there are any towns which had the right of representation by the Constitution of 1812, and whose population shall have diminished since that period, they shall notwithstanding send the number of representatives fixed in the Constitution.

Art. 6. The Island of Lipari shall choose its representative according to the provisions of § 7 of the Constitution, at the chapter mentioned.

Art. 7. Moreover all the townships which are actually chief towns of their districts, although their population may be below 6000, shall nevertheless send each one a representative.

Art. 8. The Universities of Catania and of Messina shall each send one representative, and that of Palermo shall send two, in conformity with § 8 of the said chap. 5 of the Constitution, title 1.

Art. 9. The electoral lists, and all the functionaries which the Constitution and the regulations require for proceeding to an election, being at the present moment wanting, and circumstances not admitting the delay of their creation, the following persons shall be electors of members of the next General Parliament:

I. All persons who have an income of eighteen ounces for life or in perpetuity, according to § 1 of chap. 8, title 1, of the Constitution.

II. All doctors or licentiates in any faculty whatever.

III. The members of the literary, scientific, and artistic academies of the kingdom.

V. All the traders inscribed in the last lists of the tax on merchants now abolished.

VI. All workmen and masters inscribed in the lists of the national guards; and in places where the national guard is not yet organized, all the workmen and masters who are heads or members of the lay congregations.

VII. Finally, all those who are inscribed in the district lists of eligibles last published.

Art. 10. The following persons cannot exercise the electoral right:

I. All those who cannot read and write, according to chap. 10 of the Constitution, in the title of "Liberties, rights, and duties of the citizen."

II. All those who are excluded from the representation by § 1 and 2 of chap. 6, title 1, of the Constitution.

III. Accused persons, and those who by law are interdicted from voting through ordinary offences only, according to the Penal Code now in force.

Art. 11. Every Sicilian citizen who may have any one of the aforesaid qualifications constituting an elector, if he shall obtain the majority of the votes of those electors who vote on the day of election, shall be the representative of the district, city, or township which shall have elected him, without having need of any other requisite, unless he come under the exclusions stated in the preceding paragraph.

Art. 12. The provisional committees of the cities and townships in which elections are to take place, so soon as they receive the present Act of Convocation, shall appoint the place and the hour at which the elections shall take place.

They shall choose by the majority of votes one of their members, who, in conjunction with the chief priest, or incumbent, or curate, or the person who performs his functions, and the senior notary of the township, shall constitute the Commissions intrusted with the electoral operations. The selected member of the committee shall be the President.

These Commissions shall—

I. For two days preceding the day fixed as above for the elections, keep open a register arranged in alphabetical order, in which all persons who have the qualifications necessary to constitute them electors shall go and enter their proper name, surname, parentage, and dwelling-place.

II. They shall take care that no person shall be inscribed who has no right to be so. They shall for this purpose decide provisionally whether or not

persons who present themselves have the qualifications required as above, reserving an appeal to the House of Commons, which shall definitely determine the same; and in case of admission they shall deliver to him a ticket signed by all three to be presented on the day of election.

III. They shall on the said day preside over the electoral operations. They shall collect the votes. They shall nominate two electors to act as scrutineers.

IV. In fine, they shall take every measure adapted to complete the elections with the utmost quietness and in the most proper order, removing all persons who shall cause disturbances.

Art. 13. The elections shall take place by secret voting; that is to say, by every elector placing a ticket inscribed with the name of his candidate in the hands of the President of the Commission, who shall place the same in a closed urn in the presence of the elector, and of the two other members of the Commission.

Art. 14. When the hour of voting shall be passed, the President of the Commission shall take the tickets one by one out of the urn, shall read them aloud, and shall pass them to the two other members successively; and the two scrutineers shall write the names of the candidates as they are gone through, and when all are made up he shall proclaim the result of the voting. All operations shall be carried on publicly in presence of the electors.

Art. 15. In case neither of the candidates shall obtain one more than half of the votes given, votes shall be taken secretly and in writing, by stating aye or no as to each of the candidates, beginning by the one who shall have received the largest number of votes, and so on, continuing until the name of one is reached who shall obtain one more than a half of the votes.

Art. 16. No person shall come armed, either to inscribe his name or to give his vote at the election, under the penalty of being unable to vote at this election.

Art. 17. When the election is over, the electoral commissions shall deliver an attestation of the election signed by them to the representative elected; and a copy of the same, also signed by them, and subscribed by the President of the local committee, shall be sent by them to our Lieutenant-General, who shall present the same to the House of Commons as soon as it assembles. They shall draw out a minute of the electoral operations, which, together with the register of electors, they shall keep under seal at the disposal of the House of Commons.

Art. 18. In the towns which have more than one parish, the electoral commissions shall be composed of a member of the committee chosen by a majority of votes as in Art. 12, for each parish, of the incumbent of the parish, and of the senior notary therein resident.

These commissions shall be limited to the preliminary operations, so far as to the collection of the tickets of voting; then all the commissions of all the parishes shall meet together in the town-house, where the scrutiny of the tickets shall be effected, and they shall proceed to declare elected the person (or persons, when there is more than one to be elected) who shall obtain the majority of the united votes of all the parishes, as in Art. 13.

Art. 19. All the temporal peers mentioned in § II of chap. 4, title 1, of the Constitution, and in the table at the end of the same, or in their default their successors in the title, according to the succession as established in the several families in 1812, and all the ecclesiastical peers mentioned in the same § and in the same table, shall sit in the House of Peers.

Art. 20. Persons not Sicilians are excluded from the Temporal Peerage; ecclesiastics not Sicilians, and those who hold the Peerage in *commendam*, are excluded from the Spiritual Peerage.

Art. 21. And whereas many Temporal Peerages are now extinct, or are held by non-Sicilians, and many Spiritual Peerages are vacant, or held in *commendam*, or by prelates not Sicilians, therefore in order to restore the House of Peers to the number at which it stood in the last session, according to the table annexed to the Constitution, it shall be completed in the manner following:

When the House of Commons is lawfully constituted, and the forms required by Article 23 are executed in the House of Peers, it shall present to the House of Peers as many separate triplets of lay and ecclesiastical persons as there are temporal and ecclesiastical peerages respectively deficient.

And whereas it is not intended to form definitely a peerage in the persons

of the elected, any one eligible to the House of Commons may be included in the triplets of the Peers deficient.

The House of Peers shall be bound to make a selection out of the triple note presented by the House of Commons within three days from the day of presentation, and in case it should neglect so to do the first of the three nominated shall be of right the Peer elect.

Art. 22. The Houses of Peers and of Commons shall assemble for this first time in places prepared by our Lieutenant-General under the presidency of the oldest Member present of each Chamber, and shall proceed to elect their respective Presidents and Vice-Presidents, and to verify the titles of their respective Members.

Art. 23. When the House of Peers has elected its President it shall not proceed to any other business until it has sent to the House of Commons the list of Temporal and Ecclesiastical Peetrages vacant.

If the House of Commons shall not think it correct, a mixed Committee of twenty Members of the Commons and twenty of the Peers, under the presidency of the President of the House of Commons, shall definitively determine the list, and the formation of the supplementary triplets shall immediately be proceeded with as in Article 21.

Art. 24. In all measures in which there shall be a difference of opinion between the two Houses, it shall be decided by a mixed Committee, constituted as in the preceding Article, and always selected for the purpose in each special case.

The Houses are bound to select their Committees within the term of eight days, after which the most diligent House shall make a selection in the other.

The Mixed Committees are in a condition to act whenever two-thirds of the whole number are assembled.

Art. 25. The two Parliaments of Naples and Sicily shall put themselves in communication for all matters which relate to interests common to all.

Art. 26. Our Minister Secretary of State for the Affairs of Sicily, residing near our royal person, and our Lieutenant-General in Sicily, are intrusted with the execution of the present Sovereign Act, each in the part which appertains to him.

Naples, March 6, 1848.

(Signed) FERDINAND.

The Minister Secretary of State for the Affairs of Sicily,
near His Majesty,
(Signed) G. SCOVAZZO.

Ferdinand II, &c.

WITH the object of making provision for the speedy march of administration in Sicily;

On the proposition of our Minister Secretary of State for the Affairs of Sicily, resident near our person;

We have resolved to decree and we decree as follows:—

Art. 1. We will have a Lieutenant-General in Sicily, who shall be selected by us either from our royal family or from among the distinguished personages of that island.

Art. 2. The Lieutenant-General shall for the present be attended by three Ministers Secretaries of State, attached to the Departments of Grace and Justice and of Ecclesiastical Affairs, of the Interior, and of Finances.

Art. 3. The three Ministers together, under the presidency of the Lieutenant-General, shall compose the Council of Ministers, who shall be attended by a Secretary, with the office of Director of the Ministerial Department, who shall keep the writings thereof.

Art. 4. The powers of the Lieutenant-General for the exercise of his high functions, the manner of carrying on the business of the Council of Ministers, and the correspondence of the Government of the island with the Minister of the Affairs of Sicily residing near our person, shall be the matter of suitable instructions.

Art. 5. We reserve to ourselves to make provision for the appointments of Lieutenant-General, of the Ministers, and of the Director of the Secretariat, by another decree.

Art. 6. Our Minister Secretary of State for the Affairs of Sicily residing near our person, is intrusted with the execution of the present decree.
Naples, March 6, 1848.

(Signed) FERDINAND.
The Minister, &c.,
(Signed) G. SCOVAZZO.

Ferdinand II, &c.

WITH a view to the decree of this date, by which we have made provision for the organic form of the Government of Sicily.

On the proposition of our Minister Secretary of State for the affairs of Sicily resident near our person ;

We have resolved to decree and do decree as follows :—

Art. 1. We nominate Rear-Admiral Don Ruggiero Settimo, of the Princes of Fitalia, our Lieutenant-General in Sicily, who shall enter upon the exercise of his functions immediately.

Art. 2. We confer upon the same the power of opening in our royal name the Legislative Chambers of the General Parliament called in Palermo for the 25th day of March instant.

Art. 3. Our Minister Secretary of State for the affairs of Sicily residing near our person, is charged with the execution of the present decree.

Naples, March 6, 1848.

(Signed) FERDINAND.
The Minister, &c.,
(Signed) G. SCOVAZZO.

Ferdinand II, &c.

WITH a view to the two decrees of this date, by one of which we have made provisions for the organic form of the Government of Sicily, and by the other we have nominated Rear-Admiral Don Ruggiero Settimo, Prince of Fitalia, our Lieutenant-General in that island.

On the proposition of our Minister Secretary of State for the affairs of Sicily residing near our person ;

We have resolved to decree and we decree as follows :—

Art. 1. We nominate the following persons Ministers Secretaries of State near our Lieutenant-General in Sicily :—

The Advocate Don Pasquale Calvi, for the Department of Grace and Justice, and of Ecclesiastical Affairs.

Don Pietro Lanza, Prince of Scordia, for the Department of the Interior.

Don Vincenzo Fardella, Marquis of Torrensra, for the Department of the Finances.

Art. 2. We nominate Don Mariano Stabile Secretary of the Council of Ministers, with the grade of Director of State.

Art. 3. Our Minister Secretary of State for the Affairs of Sicily residing near our person, and our Lieutenant-General in Sicily, is entrusted with the execution of the present decree.

Naples, March 6, 1848.

(Signed) FERDINAND.
The Minister, &c.,
(Signed) G. SCOVAZZO.

Ferdinand II, &c.

BEING desirous of dictating provisionally a form of oath to be taken by political, civil, and military functionaries in Sicily ;

On the proposition of our Minister Secretary of State for the affairs of Sicily resident near our person ;

We have resolved to decree and we decree as follows :—

Article 1. All political and civil employés in Sicily, of whatever rank and

quality, shall not exercise their respective offices and employments, until they have previously taken the oath of fidelity and obedience to us and to the existing Constitution, according to the following form :

" I, N. N. (name and rank), promise and swear before God, fidelity and obedience to King Ferdinand II, and an exact compliance with his commands.

" I promise and swear to fulfil with the utmost zeal and with perfect honesty and honour, the duties entrusted to me.

" I promise and swear to observe the existing Constitution and to cause the same to be observed.

" I promise and swear to observe and to cause to be observed the laws and decrees and regulations now in force, and those which shall hereafter be sanctioned and published by the King, in the terms of the said Constitution.

" I promise and swear that I will not now or ever belong to any secret society whatever.

" So help me God."

Article 2. All military functionaries shall take the same oath ; but for them the following shall be added to the form above given :

" I promise and swear to defend, even to the shedding of my blood, the flags (and the standards) which His Majesty has deigned to entrust to me."

Article 3. For the taking of the above oath, the forms and regulations now in force shall also be observed.

Article 4. Our Minister Secretary of State for the affairs of Sicily residing near our person, our Lieutenant-General in Sicily, and the Ministers Secretaries of State with the same, are charged with the execution of the present decree.

Naples, March 6, 1848.

(Signed) FERDINAND.

The Minister, &c.,

(Signed) G. SCOVAZZO.

No. 127.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 30.)

My Lord,

Palermo, March 13, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th current I now inclose a copy of my letter to Prince Cariati there referred to. This letter had been prepared some days before its delivery in concert with Prince Cariati, and was only kept back in expectation of communications from Palermo which might enable me to judge how such conditions were likely to be received there.

On the 6th the steamer arrived from Palermo with letters from Lord Mount Edgecumbe and M. Stabile, but on the same day intelligence was received of the Revolution that had taken place in France ; and as it was evident that this event must encourage the Sicilians to rise in their demands and to aim at an unqualified restoration of their Constitution of 1812, I was unwilling to deliver the letter as conveying my advice to the King under the then existing circumstances. Prince Cariati however urged that having two days before given the King to understand that he would receive such a letter and that I was only waiting for the arrival of the packet from Palermo to forward it to him, the King's suspicions of my sincerity would be revived, and he might imagine that I had only been making excuses for delay, were I now to withhold the letter. He said I knew very well how difficult it had been to convince the King that I really desired the re-establishment of his authority in Sicily and that England had no designs of her own on that island, and that he must therefore ask me to let him have the letter we had agreed upon.

I said that as I had promised him the letter he should have it, but that I must give him along with it a memorandum to the effect that it was no longer applicable to the altered state of affairs ; and this I did in a few lines which I wrote whilst he was with me, and of which a copy is also inclosed.

I have thought it necessary to give this explanation to your Lordship of my reason for placing in the hands of Prince Cariati a proposal which required to be considerably enlarged before it was likely to find favour in Sicily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure I in No. 127.

The Earl of Minto to Prince Cariati.

My dear Prince,

Naples, March 6, 1848.

ON turning in my mind the best means of settling the differences now pending between Naples and Sicily, the following suggestions have occurred to me, which, to guard against a misunderstanding, I will state in writing.

I would propose that the King should in the first instance nominate a Sicilian Administration having the confidence of the country, by the advice of which His Majesty should convoke a Sicilian Parliament. As soon as His Majesty shall have acquainted me with his intention of taking this step, I should be willing to proceed to Sicily to treat of an armistice which should suspend all hostilities between the two countries, assuming as a basis the *status quo* at the time when it shall have been concluded; so that neither party directly nor indirectly should construct works against the positions of their opponents.

The Sicilian fortresses which at the time of the conclusion of the armistice are held by the Neapolitan troops may receive provisions for the subsistence of the garrison, either sent directly from the Kingdom to Naples or purchased in Sicily at the current prices.

Should His Majesty be pleased to issue the necessary orders for the exact fulfilment of this armistice, I would employ whatever influence I may possess for the purpose of inducing the Sicilians to accept and observe this agreement; and further I would request the Admiral to direct the officers under his command, on their part to attend as far as may be practicable to the due observance of these conditions. I propose that the questions now depending should be left to the decision of the two Parliaments of Naples and Sicily, and should these Parliaments be unable to agree, that His Majesty should address himself to the Governments of the King of Sardinia, of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, and of the Pope, by whose arbitration those questions upon which the two Parliaments have failed to agree, may be decided.

Although you are not invested with any official character you may perhaps deem it advisable to submit this paper to the consideration of His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

P.S.—I shall be happy to receive any communication which you may be authorized to transmit to me from His Majesty.

Inclosure 2 in No. 127.

Memorandum by the Earl of Minto.

6 Mars, 1848.

JE viens d'apprendre les événemens très graves qui viennent de se passer en France, et qui doivent inévitablement agiter les esprits dans tous les pays. Dans ces circonstances je crois qu'il faudrait des mesures plus promptes et plus larges pour réussir à mettre fin à la guerre et assurer l'établissement du pouvoir du Roi en Sicile. Mais je suis prêt pourtant à faire tout ce qui dépendra de moi dans le sens de ma lettre.

(Signé) MINTO.

(Translation.)

March 6, 1848.

I HAVE just learnt the very serious events which have occurred in France, and which must inevitably disturb the minds of men in all countries. Under these circumstances I consider that more prompt and extended measures will be required in order to succeed in putting an end to the war, and in securing the establishment of the King's power in Sicily. But I am however ready to do everything that shall depend on me in the sense of my letter.

(Signed) MINTO.

No. 128.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 30.)

My Lord,

Palermo, March 13, 1848.

I ARRIVED here on the 10th in the "Hibernia," Sir William Parker's flag-ship, having learned on my passage by a letter from Mr. Erskine, who proceeded in a steamer which rejoined us, that intelligence of the French Revolution had already reached Palermo, where the Neapolitan Decrees of the 7th for the government of Sicily had also been received, and that this event had so excited the public, as to leave no hope of the acceptance of the terms which I had obtained for them.

As soon as we anchored a sub-Committee of the Provisional Government headed by M. Stabile came off to the ship to wait upon me and to escort me on shore, where great preparations had been made for my reception. Upon my desiring to be informed of their intentions and of the truth of the reports which had reached me on my passage, M. Stabile at once declared that their views had been entirely changed by a Revolution likely to be so extensively felt in Europe, as that which had unexpectedly occurred in France. He admitted that the terms I had brought were better than they could have hoped to obtain, and such as they would have gladly accepted a few days before; but that now, feeling their position more secure, they were resolved to re-establish their Constitution of 1812 in all its integrity, and to require in the terms of that Constitution the deposition of the King in favour of his eldest son or some other member of his family, and the permanent independence of the Kingdom of Sicily.

I told him that these were pretensions I could not listen to. That at their request I had consented to negotiate for them with the King. That the union of the Crowns of Sicily and Naples was the basis on which they proposed to treat, and that had they even hinted at their present views, I should have declined to make myself a party to the negotiation. That having been induced to mediate between them and the King as their acknowledged Sovereign, and having at their earnest solicitation myself passed over to Sicily in order to facilitate the acceptance of such terms as I had obtained for them, I now found they were not disposed to respect their engagements. That I should therefore neither land, nor accept any of the honours with which they proposed to receive me, nor admit of any negotiation which was not based upon their recognition of the King.

Having explained my feelings sufficiently as regarded their conduct on this occasion I also endeavoured to make them sensible of the imprudence of being led by vague speculations on the consequences of the Revolution in France, to expose themselves to the danger of raising up powerful enemies on one side, whilst on the other they would lose the support of our sympathy and protection; and this at a moment when a free Parliament, a separate administration, and all that was practically important to them, was already within their reach.

M. Stabile for some time held rather a high tone, but finding me determined, he said that they would report what had passed to the General Committee and acquaint me with its decision the next morning.

Next day the 11th, the sub-Committee came on board and intimated

their willingness to propose to the General Committee the recognition of the King, provided they were satisfied that sufficient powers would be conferred on his Luogotenente, and that the complete independence of the administration would be secured. I observed that these were points which might be made the subject of negotiation with the King. They then undertook to submit their proposal to the Committee, stating at the same time their readiness at once to conclude the armistice which had been proposed to them, in such form as I should prescribe.

I said that as matters now stood, I could not commit myself as a party to any engagements with the Committee, but that they might if they pleased direct the Committees of Messina and Syracuse to conclude an armistice with the King's officers at those places, who I knew had been empowered to treat with them on the terms proposed. This was at once agreed to, and Sir William Parker next morning dispatched a steamer to convey the necessary orders to Syracuse and Messina, by which a stop will I trust be put to the further effusion of blood in this contest.

On the following day when these gentlemen again waited upon me, finding that they were, as I thought, seeking to gain time and to spin out negotiation till the meeting of Parliament, I began by saying that I trusted they now brought me the final determination of the Committee. That from reluctance to abandon hastily all prospects of accommodation, I had given them ample time for deliberation on a point which should never have been held in doubt; but that a regard for my own honour and the dignity of my Court required that I should no longer remain in my present position; and after referring at some length to the assurances and professions by which they had engaged my good offices, and the bad faith manifested in their present designs, I gave them notice that on taking my departure I should find it necessary to address a formal communication to the General Committee, it being impossible that I should suffer the disrespect shown to the British Government in my person to pass without very serious notice. And I reminded them of the very insecure ground upon which they placed themselves, in courting the foreign intervention they might have to dread, for their complete subjugation to their former Government.

M. Stabile admitted the justice of all my reproaches and all my cautions, which he said he and others had represented even more strongly to the General Committee, but that in truth they were not masters of their own conduct. That they had to deal with an armed populace under the influence of leaders of bands, whose support must be secured; that for this, time was required; and that they had been unable to come to a conclusion last night, but that the Committee would meet again that day. I told them that in order to leave a last opening for accommodation I would postpone for another day the transmission of such a communication as I proposed to address to the Committee, and which must terminate all further intercourse with them; but that unless next morning their recognition of the King was announced to me, I could no longer delay that step, and breaking off all negotiation.

After some conversation M. Stabile with many expressions of gratitude for the interest taken in their affairs, repeated his assurance that the subject should be finally considered in the Committee, and that I should be informed next morning of their decision.

I learned in the middle of the night that a long and anxious discussion had taken place in the General Committee, which happily ended with an unanimous resolution to recognise the union of the Crowns of Sicily and Naples in the person of the present King, subject however to conditions which establish the complete separate independence of the Government of Sicily as it existed under the Constitution of 1812, with a regal power conferred on the Viceroy. This morning the sub-Committee came on board the "Hibernia" to announce this decision to me with a memorandum of the conditions attached to it.

I told them that their recognition of the King put an end to the adverse attitude I had felt it necessary to assume, and that I should no longer refuse to land; that the terms on which a pacification might be effected were matter for consideration between them and the Neapolitan

Government; that as they had no means at present of communicating with that Government, I would forward their proposals to Lord Napier, through whom they might reach the King, but that it was not my intention to take any further part in the negotiation.

M. Stabile said that it was through my good offices alone that they expected to conclude any arrangement with the King; that it was only the sense of their obligations to me individually and of the friendly interest England had always manifested towards Sicily, which had induced them so far to deviate from the Constitution of 1812, as to consent to recognise the title of the present King, and in that respect to conform to the Treaty of Vienna, to which England was a party, but that they should not themselves send any one to negotiate for them at Naples. That if the King accepted of the conditions they required, the Parliament might be opened under his authority; and that if he rejected them, they would proceed according to their original intentions, which they very much preferred and had only abandoned from the desire to avoid giving just ground of offence to the British Government.

Being entirely convinced that an absolute separation of the Crowns of Naples and Sicily is inevitable unless the terms now demanded are acquiesced in, and that the Sicilians are determined and able to set Naples, unassisted by foreign troops, at defiance, I cannot but hope that the Neapolitan Government will before it is too late close with the proposals of the Committee, and thus preserve at least an union of the Crowns.

In the afternoon I landed under a salute from the "Hibernia" and from the shore, and was received with great honours, amidst the shouts and applause of the vast multitude congregated on the occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

No. 129.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 30.)

My Lord,

Palermo, March 14, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy and translation of the memorandum submitted to me by the Sub-Committee as the basis on which they will consent to an accommodation with Naples, acknowledging the unity of the Crown of the Two Sicilies.

I should add that this paper is a mere sketch and will be altered in several respects to meet my suggestions; an amended copy now preparing by M. Stabile shall therefore be forwarded to your Lordship by the next opportunity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Memorandum submitted to Lord Minto on the 13th of March by the Sub-Committee of Palermo.

RE delle Due Sicilie, togliendo Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie. Rè delle Due Sicilie è il vero titolo; è quello che intese confermarsi nel Trattato di Vienna, è quello che non osta con la Costituzione del 1812.

Il Rappresentante del Rè in Sicilia, quando non sia un membro della Famiglia Reale, sia un Siciliano, porti il titolo di Vice-Rè.

Questa carica di Vice-Rè sia rivestita irrevocabilmente di un perfetto *alter ego* fornito di tutte le facoltà che la Costituzione annette al potere esecutivo, e legato coi vincoli che la Costituzione anzidetta impone al detto potere.

Se sua Eccellenza Lord Minto accetta questa proposizione, potrebbe indotto termine formolarsi dal Comitato a scanso di ogni equivoco tutto ciò che debba intendersi compreso nell' *alter ego* anzidetto.

Nella medesima stipolazione dev' esser compreso :

1. Conservarsi gl' impieghi ed atti dati o fatti dal Comitato Generale e gl' impieghi dati da altri Comitati, e quelli che si darebbero durante il tempo in cui i Comitati proseguiranno nello stato attuale.

2. L'atto di convocazione del Parlamento pubblicato dal Comitato si ritenga come parte integrante della Costituzione sino a tanto che il potere legislativo non abbia adattato ai tempi la Costituzione dal 1812.

3. Gl' impieghi di qualunque natura, civili, militari, diplomatici (per Sicilia) e dignità ecclesiastiche, conferirsi dal potere esecutivo residente in Sicilia ai soli Siciliani.

4. L'istituzione della Guardia Nazionale conservata con quelle migliori riforme che il Parlamento sarà per decidere.

5. Le fortezze sieno tutte evacuate dalle truppe in 8 giorni dalla conclusione dell' accordo, e possano esser demolite quelle parti che potrebbero nuocere alla città, a scelta o dei comitati locali o delle commissioni che nomineranno prima di sciogliersi, ed in mancanza a scelta del magistrato municipale.

6. La Sicilia conii moneta con quel sistema che il Parlamento determinerà.

7 Sia riconosciuta e conservata l'attuale nostra coccarda e bandiera tricolore.

8. Sia consegnata alla Sicilia la quarta parte della flotta, delle arme e materiali di guerra sinora esistenti, o l'equivalente in denaro.

9. Le spese di guerra rimangono rispettivamente compensate.

10. I danni di ogni natura del Porto Franco di Messina e sue mercanzie non siano a carico della Sicilia ma del tesoro Napolitano.

11. Che i Ministri di Guerra, Marina, Affari Esteri (per Sicilia), e tutti altri Ministri per gli Affari di Sicilia siano in Sicilia presso il Vice-Rè, e responsabili ai termini della Costituzione.

12. Che la Sicilia non debba riconoscere alcun Ministero di Affari di Sicilia residente in Napoli.

13. Che sia restituito il Porto Franco a Messina nello stato in cui era avanti la Legge del 1826, senza limitazione di quanto altro potesse per tutti gli altri punti della Sicilia disporre il Parlamento.

14. Tutte le materie d'interesse comune ai due paesi di Napoli e Sicilia siano determinati di accordo dai due Parlamenti.

15. Se si farà lega commerciale o politica dei popoli Italiani, la Sicilia vi debba essere rappresentata distintamente come ogni altro Stato d'Italia, da persone nominate dal potere esecutivo residente in Sicilia.

16. L'approvazione di quanto sarà convenuto con questo atto, ove possa essere sviluppato, sia nelle debite forme data al Comitato prima dell' apertura del Parlamento, in mancanza di che s'intenda scelta ogni trattativa col Comitato Generale.

Restituzione de' vapori postali-doganali comprati col denaro e pel servizio della Sicilia.

(Translation.)

KING of the Two Sicilies, omitting King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

King of the Two Sicilies is the true style, and that which it was intended to confer by the Treaty of Vienna, and which is not in opposition to the Constitution of 1812.

The King's Representative in Sicily, when not a member of the Royal Family, to be a Sicilian and to bear the title of Viceroy.

This charge of Viceroy to be irrevocably invested with a complete *alter ego* furnished with all the powers which the Constitution annexes to the executive authority, and bound by all the ties which the above-mentioned Constitution has imposed upon the said power.

If his Excellency Lord Minto should agree to this proposition the Committee would within a given time and to avoid the possibility of misunderstanding, state in detail all that is to be comprised in the aforesaid *alter ego*.

In the same stipulation must be included:—

1. To be confirmed and maintained all the appointments made or created by the General Committee and the appointments made by other Committees, as

well as those which shall have been made during the period in which the Committees shall continue in their present state.

2. The Act of Convocation of Parliament published by the Committee shall be retained as an integral part of the Constitution until such time as the Legislative Power has adapted the Constitution of 1812 to the present times.

3. Appointments of all kinds, whether civil, military, diplomatic (for Sicily), or the ecclesiastical dignities, are to be conferred by the Executive power residing in Sicily upon Sicilians only.

4. The institution of a National Guard is to be retained with such reform and amelioration as the Parliament may decide on.

5. The fortresses are all to be evacuated by the troops in eight days from the conclusion of the agreement, and those parts of them which could be used against the cities, may be demolished at the choice of the local committees or of the commissions which they may appoint before dissolving themselves, and failing these, at the choice of the municipal magistrates.

6. Sicily shall be at liberty to coin money upon the system which shall be determined by Parliament.

7. Our present tricoloured cockade and flag to be acknowledged and preserved to us.

8. The fourth part of the fleet, of the arms and materials of war now existing, or its equivalent in money, shall be made over to Sicily.

9. The expenses of the war to be borne by each party respectively.

10. The damage of all kinds done to the Porto Franco of Messina and to its merchandize is not to be charged to Sicily but to the Neapolitan Treasury.

11. That the Ministers of War, Marine, Foreign Affairs (for Sicily), and all other Ministers for the affairs of Sicily, are to reside with the Viceroy in Sicily, and are to be responsible in accordance with the Constitution.

12. That Sicily shall recognize no department for Sicilian affairs at Naples.

13. That the free port of Messina shall be replaced in the situation it was in before the Law of 1826, without disparagement to the Parliament's right to make whatever other arrangements it may choose on other points of Sicily.

14. All matters of common interest to the two countries of Naples and Sicily to be determined by agreement between the two Parliaments.

15. If a commercial or political league of the Italian people is entered into, Sicily must be represented at the negotiations, like every other State of Italy, by persons named by the Executive in Sicily.

16. The approval of what may be agreed upon in this Act in so far as it will admit of being drawn up on paper, is to be given in due form to the Committee before the opening of the Parliament, failing which all negotiation with the General Committee is to be understood as at an end.

The restitution of the post-office steamers hought with the money belonging to the Sicilian customs and for the service of Sicily.

No. 130.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 30.)

My Lord,

Palermo, March 14, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter which has been addressed to me by Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," upon the state of affairs at Messina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Captain Codrington to the Earl of Minto.

My dear Lord Minto,

"Thetis," Messina, March 13, 1848.

YOUR letter of the 7th by "Porcupine" as well as that of the 11th by "Locust" have duly reached me, the latter this morning.

2 11 2

The French news had been thoroughly known here before your first letter came, and there is of course more difficulty in bringing these people to terms. The first attempt (on the 7th) utterly failed, the Comitato refusing to make any armistice without orders from the Comitato of Palermo: hostilities consequently were immediately resumed, but they have not been favourable to the insurgents, who do not seem to be now in a better position than they were in before.

Since the hostilities were resumed on the 9th, after the conference on board "Thetis" in the morning, there have been only a few shot (from the garrison only) directed I imagine at works in progress; but there has been no general battle again. To-day I have seen the President after he had received (and considered in Comitato) the despatches by "Locust" of this morning. The result is that if this gale will moderate I shall be able to arrange a conference to-morrow morning, the result of which will probably be some sort of temporary agreement, but I cannot hold out a hope that the conditions of no works to be carried on or no supplies to be received will be faithfully kept to.

These very conditions with all their perplexing details we have had again and again in debate in repeated conferences for armistices on former occasions; and experience has shown me that neither side can or will observe them faithfully, still less can I hope for it now in the exasperated feelings of this people after such repeated bombardments.

I have had a long conversation with the President Piraino to-day, and I hope have reconciled him to the Constitution under the Royal name and a Viceroy; but the fact is that Palermo is now the decisive point; and these people will accept whatever the Palermo Comitato agrees to. I told Signor Piraino that it seemed very much like a breach of faith, if after all you had done at their request and with their own conditions, they should now throw overboard your negotiation and ask for fresh terms not asked for by them before, and for which you were not armed on leaving Naples.

One thing I am quite sure of, Messina will not stand a Neapolitan garrison in the citadel, nor hereafter I think, any such citadel at all against the town. They will want some of it removed.

Believe, &c.

(Signed) H. J. CODRINGTON.

No. 131.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 30.)

My Lord,

Palermo, March 14, 1848.

I HAVE little to add to the long narrative I have already given your Lordship of my proceedings to this date.

I am however satisfied by what I have seen and heard since I came on shore, that nothing but my continued refusal to land without an assurance of the King's recognition, and the attitude I assumed in presence of the Committee and of the public, could have sufficed to prevent the formal deposition of Ferdinand II from the Throne of Sicily.

It is impossible to convey an idea of the intense hatred with which he is regarded by all classes and of the terms in which the proceedings of the Royal forces are described. And I really now feel some surprise that the desire to retain the friendship of England so highly prized here, the fear of losing our support or of incurring our resentment, or that any considerations of prudence whatever, should have sufficed to reconcile the Sicilians to the sovereignty of one so abhorred, and, as they maintain, excluded from the throne by the Constitution of their country.

A few weeks ago this complete disunion of the Two Sicilies might have been avoided by timely concession on the part of the Neapolitan Government, but there was no overcoming the obstinacy of one or two individuals who had the confidence of the King.

I propose to remain here a few days longer to learn what decision may have been taken at Naples, as it is just possible that my influence

may be useful in smoothing over any little difficulties, but I shall not make myself a party to any negotiation or agreement; and in truth there is but little time for hesitation at Naples, as the Sicilian Parliament will meet on the 25th.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 132.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 30.)

My Lord, Palermo, March 18, 1848.

I HAVE not yet received any information of the decision which the King may have taken in the affairs of Sicily. This delay I presume must arise from a change of Ministers, which my letters from Lord Napier lead me to expect, and which if it leads to the formation of a sincerely liberal Government, may yet be in time to prevent the total alienation of Sicily from the Crown of Naples, and to save the latter from the danger it has to dread.

Every day brings me fresh evidence of the fixed resolution of the people of this country to make it practically quite independent of Naples, and of their inveterate hatred of the King.

Even the nominal sovereignty which they have been induced to allow him is almost more than they can bring themselves to bear, and nothing less than a sense of the importance of preserving the friendship and sympathy of England could have overcome their desire to rid themselves of all connection with one so odious to them.

Should the King refuse the conditions which have been offered, I have no doubt that his deposition, in terms of the Constitution of 1812, will be unanimously and joyfully decreed, as in the present state of Europe they have no apprehension of foreign interference to subdue them.

The Constitution of Sicily as it now stands is not wanting in aristocratic elements, but those who direct the present movement have democratic views and will doubtless work them out in the reconstruction of the Government.

I shall endeavour without in any degree committing Her Majesty's Government, to encourage the friendly confidence with which England is regarded by all Sicilians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 133.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 30.)

My Lord, Naples, March 15, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy and translation of a note from his Excellency Prince Cariati, promising an investigation into the causes of the damages inflicted on the Porto Franco of Messina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 133.

*Prince Curiati to Lord Napier.**Napoli, li 14 Marzo, 1848.*

IL Sottoscritto, &c., ha ricevuto la nota di Lord Napier, &c., del 9 corrente con uno estratto di rapporto del Console Inglese in Messina, in cui si asserisce che il Porto Franco di quella città sia stato a bella posta ed inconsideratamente incendiato da' fuochi della cittadella.

I rapporti che giungono al Real Governo da Messina affermano in vece che l'incendio delle merci depositate in quel porto sia stato cagionato dal fuoco degl' insorti.

Il Real Governo è ben lungi dal voler porre in dubbio le assertive del Console e di un ufficiale della Real Marina Britannica, ma dee supporre che la difficoltà di discernere in momenti di tanta effervescenza popolare, il vero dal falso, sia origine di tale divergenza di opinione. Allorchè però le passioni saranno calmate, non sarà difficile di chiarire gli avvenimenti, ed il Real Governo si farà un dovere di uniformarsi a' stretti dettami della giustizia.

Intanto, il Sottoscritto non saprebbe dispensarsi di fare osservare a Lord Napier che non è presumibile che il comandante della cittadella abbia voluto a bella posta o per inconsideratezza incendiare le merci depositate nel Porto Franco di Messina, e dee al contrario ragionevolmente supporre che l'assoluta necessità di provvedere alla difesa della piazza e di distruggere qualche opera che in quella direzione si erigeva per aggredirla, lo abbiano sforzato a dirigersi i suoi fuochi.

In tale incertezza il Sottoscritto altro non può se non assicurare Lord Napier che allorquando i fatti saranno chiariti, il Governo di Sua Maestà, animato da sentimenti di giustizia e di benevolenza verso i sudditi di Sua Maestà Britannica, si uniformerà scrupolosamente a quanto sarà giusto, e non dubita che in virtù delle relazioni di amicizia e di buon volere ch' esistono tra i due Governi, ogni vertenza verrà decisa con piena reciproca soddisfazione.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

Pel Ministro, &c.

(Firmato)

E. TARGIONI.

(Translation.)

Naples, March 14, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has received the note of the 9th instant addressed to him by Lord Napier, &c., inclosing an extract from a report of the English Consul at Messina, in which it is asserted that the Porto Franco of that town was purposely and wantonly set on fire from the citadel.

The reports from Messina which have reached the King's Government state, on the contrary, that the burning of the goods deposited in the Porto Franco was caused by the fire of the insurgents.

The King's Government in no way wishes to throw doubt upon the assertions of the Consul and of an officer in the British Royal Navy, but supposes that such difference of opinion must be caused by the difficulty of getting at the truth in moments of such popular excitement; but when the passions shall have subsided it will not be difficult to ascertain the real facts, and the King's Government will make a point of acting according to the dictates of the strictest justice.

At the same time the Undersigned must observe to Lord Napier that it cannot be imagined that the Commandant of the citadel should have wantonly or inconsiderately set fire to the goods deposited in the Porto Franco of Messina; but on the contrary it must reasonably be supposed that the absolute necessity of providing for the defence of the fort and of destroying some works which were erected thereabout to act against it, forced him to direct his fire upon that quarter.

In this uncertainty the Undersigned cannot do more than assure Lord Napier that when the facts shall have been ascertained, the King's Government, animated by sentiments of fairness and goodwill towards the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, will act according to the strictest justice, and does not doubt that from the relations of friendship and goodwill which exist between the two Governments, every question will be settled to the mutual satisfaction of both parties.

The Undersigned, &c.

For the Minister,
(Signed) E. TARGIONI.

No. 134.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 30.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 19, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith five despatches from the Earl of Minto, which reached me under flying seal on the evening of the 15th instant.

On the receipt of these despatches and of additional particulars contained in unofficial letters, I immediately called upon M. Scovazzo, Secretary of State for Sicilian Affairs, and communicated to him with perfect freedom all the information of which I was thus possessed.

I read to his Excellency the Earl of Minto's despatch of the 13th, conveying an ample narrative of his Lordship's intercourse with the agents of the General Committee of Palermo; a letter from the Earl of Minto to myself; a letter from Mr. Erskine accompanying an ultimatum presented by the Deputation of the General Committee; and the ultimatum itself, of which his Excellency took a copy.

Having mastered the whole subject with the greatest ease M. Scovazzo expressed his desire to make His Majesty the King acquainted with all the features of the case on the following morning.

With this view I caused an Italian translation to be prepared of the Earl of Minto's letter, and I empowered M. Scovazzo to read to the King his Lordship's despatch of the 13th March, in the same language, and to express to the King at the same time my readiness to wait upon His Majesty should he desire to obtain any additional explanations.

On the ensuing forenoon (March 16th) M. Scovazzo after again communicating with me proceeded to the Palace, where he imparted to His Majesty the Earl of Minto's statements, and Prince Cariati having been called to the audience, his Excellency was made equally cognizant of the state of affairs.

M. Scovazzo then returned to Her Majesty's Legation to give me an account of what had passed, and told me at the same time that Prince Cariati had expressed a wish to have a copy of the Sicilian ultimatum delivered to him in an official note.

This I was not enabled to do, having no official character in the transaction, and the Earl of Minto having himself withdrawn from all direct participation in the negotiation; but I transmitted the ultimatum to Prince Cariati in a letter herein inclosed, which I concerted with M. Scovazzo, and which I begged Prince Cariati to regard as addressed simply to himself, and as the frank expression of my personal opinion respecting the course which it would be expedient to pursue in the present serious emergency.

The Council did not meet on that evening for the discussion of Sicilian affairs as I had been assured it would, but it was appointed to assemble on the following day, March 17.

In the course of the night I called on Prince Cariati, and saw him again in the morning previous to the opening of the deliberation; and lest his Excellency should not thoroughly have apprehended the sense of the Earl of Minto's letters, I read them over with him with the nicest attention, and left them in his Excellency's hands for the use of the Council.

No resolution was embraced on that day; and on the following morning, yesterday, I had another interview with Prince Cariati at which M. Savarese, Minister of Public Works, was also present.

I believe I may thus condense the opinions expressed by Prince Cariati and the reflections which I have ventured to offer in the various conversations which have occurred between his Excellency and myself.

Prince Cariati is opposed to the acceptance of the Sicilian ultimatum, for the following reasons:—

Because to accept it, would violate the CIVth Article of the Treaty of Vienna.

Because it would violate the Constitution granted to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies by the King, and render the Neapolitan Ministers responsible for such violation.

Because, should the ultimatum be rejected, and should Sicily in consequence cast off its allegiance, Sicily would be restored by the Allied Powers to Naples, or it would fall into anarchy and become easily subjected by the Neapolitan forces, which would probably be invoked by the respectable portion of its inhabitants.

To these views I have opposed the following arguments, explicitly stating that they were not to be received in an official sense, but merely in the way of personal counsel, and as matter which I hoped might be worthy of consideration.

The CIVth Article of the Treaty of Vienna is open to two interpretations.

It asserts the union of the Crowns and institutions of Sicily and Naples, or the union of the Crowns only.

The former interpretation was in the first instance held by the Neapolitan Government, but they had subsequently abandoned it, for by the concessions carried to Sicily by the Earl of Minto, a distinct and different Constitution was granted to that country; and thus the Neapolitan Government had adopted the latter interpretation, which offered no valid impediment to the acceptance of the Sicilian ultimatum, for that ultimatum recognized the union of the Crowns.

It is true that the Sicilians demand an extensive alienation of the exercise of the Royal prerogative, but the Treaty of Vienna did not bind the King in that respect; the King had abandoned a part of his prerogative in giving a Legislative Constitution to Naples; he might do so in a greater degree to Sicily if such were his Royal will.

The Treaty of Vienna consequently opposed no obstacle to the acceptance of the Sicilian conditions.

Nor did the Constitution granted by the King; for that Constitution would not thereby be violated in any greater degree than it had already been, by the departure from its terms, involved in the concessions on which the Earl of Minto had been empowered to treat. Those terms offered a separate and different Constitution to Sicily; the ultimatum demanded in addition to this, an abandonment of the exercise of the Royal prerogative in favour of a Viceroy; but the Constitution of Naples could not fetter the King in any modification of his prerogative which he might adopt towards Sicily; and for such modification the Neapolitan Ministers could not be responsible; for a decree to that effect would not be countersigned by them, but by the Secretary of State for Sicily, and he alone would be responsible, but to the Sicilian, not to the Neapolitan Parliament.

It is true that the Sicilian ultimatum contained certain articles affecting the disposal of State property such as vessels and stores of war, and one respecting the indemnity for damage inflicted on the Porto Franco of Messina, matters which might be judged to fall within the province of the Neapolitan Parliament; but at present the Neapolitan Government were only called on to recognize the principle of a proportional repartition of the State property above mentioned, and to promise its execution, which would no doubt be carried into effect by Commissions of the respective Parliaments; for the principle was undeniably just. In regard to the indemnity, the justice of such a claim could only be proved by ulterior investigation, and the settlement of the question would probably on proper representation be left to the decision of the Parliaments; but should the Sicilians prove unreasonably obstinate on this article, the Neapolitan Ministers might yet assume a responsibility which they could justify to Parliament by the urgent necessity of the case.

Proceeding to Prince Cariatì's assertion that should Sicily cast off its allegiance it would be restored to the Neapolitan Crown by the arms of Allied Powers, I submitted to his Excellency that in the present conjuncture of affairs, such a result was by no means so certain as he might suppose; that I could not assert that Great Britain would interfere by force of arms to maintain the settlement made by the Treaty of Vienna, though such might possibly be the determination of Her Majesty's Government if appealed to; that his Excellency must be sensible that there were serious obstacles to such a course on the part of the German Powers, but that at best no small time must elapse before such an intervention, whether single or combined could be rendered effectual; and that in the perilous interval the existence of a Revolutionary or Republican Government at Palermo would not only have a disastrous influence at Naples and especially in Calabria, so deeply disaffected to the reigning family, and where the materials of explosion were already collected, but would give an irresistible stimulus to the anti-monarchical faction throughout Italy.

The hypothesis advanced by his Excellency of an appeal from Sicily to Naples for assistance in consequence of the impending prevalence of anarchy, was, I contended, extremely improbable and certainly remote; for the Sicilians had exhibited a remarkable facility of self-organization, which would naturally be consolidated by the convocation of the General Parliament, in which all classes except the lowest would be embraced and represented.

Prince Cariatì also occasionally stated, though merely as his personal conviction, that Naples could do perfectly well without Sicily; that it had formerly, for ten years during the war, so existed and flourished; that Sicily contributed in no degree to its welfare, having only a dynastic importance for the House of Bourbon, but no material interest for the Kingdom of Naples; and that for his part, as a Neapolitan, he wished the connection could be severed for ever. Nor was his Excellency of opinion that the King himself had much at stake in accepting or rejecting the present proposals, for there was little honour he said in retaining a barren Crown; and should His Majesty stoop to take a dignity so diminished, he would exercise about as much authority in Sicily, as he does over his titular and shadowy dominion of Jerusalem. "And how," added Prince Cariatì, "will the King be insured against the loss even of this nominal kingdom at any subsequent period, when a popular Viceroy or a rebellious muh may choose to wrest it from him?"

To these remarks I objected that though Naples might without Sicily possess the resources necessary to make it a powerful and prosperous country, I could not admit that it derived no material advantages from the contiguity and intercourse of Sicily, the commerce of which with Naples, as members of the same realm, is probably mutually more profitable than it would be, were the two countries separated under hostile circumstances; but granting that Sicily were of little importance generally to the welfare of Naples, that could not be practically true at the present moment; for should Sicily renounce its present allegiance, it must assume an order of Government either Republican or Monarchical, the first entailing all the disadvantages already indicated, the latter involving the choice of a Sovereign, most likely from one of the reigning Italian families, which would introduce a germ of jealousy and enmity between the States of the peninsula, which would be fatal to that scheme of union and alliance so much desired; whereas should the King resolve to accept the Sicilian terms, unjust and unworthy as they are, he might still, by a judicious choice of his Lieutenant, possess in reality, if not in form, a great share in the government of the country, and await the reaction of a quieter time when modifications might possibly be introduced by the Sicilian Legislature of a nature more favourable to the Royal prerogative. Nor would the union of the Crowns, and the King's sovereignty in Sicily be permanently exposed to such danger as at the present moment; for the Great Powers might in a future contingency be in a better position for controuling the Sicilians, and compelling them to adhere to their legitimate Sovereign, than is the case just now.

In holding the language which I have had the honour to submit to your Lordship, I was careful to disclaim all sympathy or approval on the part of the Earl of Minto or Her Majesty's Legation in regard to pretensions so preposterous as some of those advanced by the Sicilians; and I recommended their acceptance solely on the ground of necessity and for the purpose of avoiding greater evils contingent on a contrary course. In this view I know that I have the support of M. Savarese, an influential member of the Cabinet, who went so far as to declare in my presence and in that of Prince Cariati, that a Republic at Palermo would make one at Naples in three days; and though that assertion may possibly be rash in respect to the capital, it might I believe be applied to Calabria with perfect aptness.

I cannot flatter myself that I have produced much effect upon Prince Cariati, who frankly maintained that a general war was inevitable, and that in the scuffle, Sicily would be conquered and restored to Naples. Nor was his Excellency sensible to my representations that it was our common duty to mitigate as much as possible every cause which could inflame the disorders menaced by the Revolution at Paris, and lead to the catastrophe which he predicted. Prince Cariati repeatedly insisted that war was imminent; that it might break out between the Sardinian and Austrian troops at any moment and spontaneously; that the French would strike a mighty blow at the Italian coasts, and that it would be consistent with the dignity and interests of Great Britain to strengthen her navy in the Mediterranean, to reduce the Sicilians to reason, to grant support to the legitimate Sovereigns of Italy, and oppose an armed front to the Republican propaganda, of which the malignant operation was already apparent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 134.

Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.

Excellency,

Naples, March 16, 1848.

ON the arrival last night of Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Porcupine" with despatches from the Earl of Minto, I hastened to communicate the intelligence thus received to his Excellency M. Scovazzo, Minister at the Court of the King for Sicilian affairs.

I read to his Excellency a private letter from the Earl of Minto containing a confidential expression of his Lordship's opinions on the state of Sicily; a despatch from his Lordship to Viscount Palmerston delivering an official account of the manner and result of his arrival at Palermo; and an ultimatum placed in the hands of the Earl of Minto by the Deputation of the Committee appointed to treat with his Lordship.

M. Scovazzo having given his attentive consideration to the above-mentioned documents it was agreed that his Excellency should convey them to the knowledge of His Sicilian Majesty this morning.

For this purpose I had an Italian translation of the Earl of Minto's private letter prepared for His Majesty's perusal. I entrusted M. Scovazzo with the Earl of Minto's despatch to Viscount Palmerston, of which I empowered him to make a verbal communication to the King, and I gave him the ultimatum above mentioned of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith.

M. Scovazzo has this moment informed me that His Sicilian Majesty has graciously availed himself of the sources of information thus submitted to him, and that they have been with equal freedom imparted to your Excellency.

I am also assured that the Neapolitan Council will be immediately united for the purpose of arriving at an early solution.

Your Excellency will approach the discussion of this momentous question with all the information with which I myself am furnished, but I shall

venture to state without circumlocution or reasoning, the course which in my opinion it behoves the Neapolitan Government to pursue at the present crisis, on which depends the preservation or the loss of an ancient and formerly a devoted kingdom.

An urgent necessity seems to dictate to the Neapolitan Government the following resolutions:—

To adopt frankly the basis of the ultimatum proposed by the Committee of Palermo.

To send to Palermo instantly a Plenipotentiary empowered to treat with a deputy of the General Committee and to sign a convention for the settlement of the Sicilian affairs, which will, on being presented at Naples, receive the unhesitating ratification of His Sicilian Majesty.

To request the Earl of Minto, who disclaims all direct participation in the negotiation, to employ his good offices in moderating the conflicting interests and pretensions, and shaping them to the only aim which ought at present to occupy the attention of the Government, peace on any terms, immediate reconciliation.

Your Excellency would oblige me extremely by acquainting me with the decision of the Council for the information of the Earl of Minto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 135.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 30.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 20, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship's perusal herewith a letter from the Earl of Minto and one from Mr. Erskine referred to in my despatch of yesterday's date, relative to the demands of the Sicilians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

The Earl of Minto to Lord Napier.

My dear Napier,

Palermo, March, 14, 1848.

IT was fortunate that I did not arrive here till the first burst of excitement upon the French Revolution had passed over, as I should not have been listened to calmly, nor have been able to make them understand as they did when they cooled down a little, that a Republic might be established at Paris without necessarily disturbing the peace or repose of Europe. Nothing but the fear of our just resentment of their conduct would have sufficed to preserve the union of the Crowns. I have told them that I shall take no part in any further negotiation, but that I will forward their conditions to you, in order that they may be communicated to the King or to the Neapolitan Government. You will see that these amount to neither more nor less than a separation of the two kingdoms, as complete as that of Sweden and Norway, under one King. I am sorry for this, and should have much desired a more intimate union, but that was impossible; and what has been obtained is so much saved out of the fire, and would not have been preserved but for my presence. It now remains for the Government to decide what course it will take. I have no right to give my advice, but I ought not to conceal my very clear opinion that nothing remains but to accept the terms that are offered. These terms, such as they are, were most reluctantly conceded from regard to the Treaty of Vienna and with a special reference to England as one of the parties to that Treaty. And the Sicilians desire nothing better than the rejection of their offer, which would throw them back upon the entire Constitution of 1812, including the separation of the Crowns. It is needless to argue on this assumption, such is their doctrine which they are

resolved to maintain; and the only practical question is, whether they are in a condition to enable them to do so. I believe they are. The power and resources and energy of this country are greatly beyond what I could have imagined them to be. Every man is armed and understands the use of his arms; and though a mob of peasants cannot face good troops in the field, an entire nation of armed men united in itself and animated by the double passion of patriotism and of hatred, is not easily subdued, and would soon become inured to war and formidable even to the best troops. Neither is Naples likely for some time to find it prudent to hazard a civil war or to employ a very large force out of reach of home; and I should therefore greatly fear that the rejection of the present proposal would be equivalent to the loss of Sicily. This is enough of my opinion. The Statellas who go to Naples in this steamer will be able to report what they have observed; and M. Scovazzo I believe writes to his brother, as does the French Consul, M. Bresson, to M. de Bussières.

It only remains for me to observe that Parliament will meet on the 25th, and that there is no time for long deliberation if it is to be opened in the King's name.

I hope that an armistice has by this time been concluded at Messina as the orders from the General Committee had been received there. I shall remain here a few days to hear from you again by the "Poreupine," in case there should arise any little difficulties in which my influence might be useful, but I cannot take charge of any further negotiation. A month ago these affairs might have been settled on easy terms, and the intimate union so desirable between the two countries would have been secured, when the obstinacy of the Neapolitan Government threw away that chance; and in like manner up to the last moment its influence has prevented the adoption of every effective measure till it came too late. It is really extremely necessary that the Neapolitan Government should have some means of communication with Palermo through which it may obtain accurate information and make its own wishes known.

Pray read what you think proper of this letter to Prince Cariati. I was as much out of humour with the Sicilians as he could be for three days, but they were not the first that broke faith with me.

Ever yours,
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

The Hon. E. M. Erskine to Lord Napier.

My dear Napier,

Palermo, March 14, 1848.

LORD MINTO desires me to send you the inclosed copy of a memorandum given him yesterday by the sub-Committee appointed to treat with him. He will of course write you his opinion of it and of the state of the negotiation, himself, but to save time, which is valuable, Lord Minto wishes me to tell you that this memorandum does not purport to be anything beyond a rough sketch of the insurgents' ultimatum. In the main points it will not be altered, I believe, although Signor Stabile assured me last night that he was at the moment doing his utmost to induce the General Committee to allow him to have the sole drawing up of the definitive document now preparing, and which was to have been ready this afternoon, and that should he succeed in his endeavours much should be modified to meet Lord Minto's wishes, which now appears unreasonable and crude.

He could not be assured me erase or alter one line of the inclosed document, of his own accord, as it was agreed upon in a numerous and stormy meeting of the Committee.

In the first place he admitted that the difference between King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies and King of the Two Sicilies was so trifling and so unreal, that it was not worth their while to make a serious stand upon a point which was likely to encounter a most obstinate resistance at

Naples, as to concede it would entail an alteration of the style by which all Europe recognizes the King; but he was afraid that the public had taken such offence at this "grammatical pleonasm," as he terms it, that it would be difficult to get the King acknowledged by his present style. Then again he acknowledged that it would be absurd to expect that diplomatic servants who happened to be natives of Sicily should receive their appointment from the King's *locum tenens* while serving abroad, so that this point might be given up.

With respect to the fortresses he was forced to admit that although it was necessary that, to satisfy the people at Messina and elsewhere, the right of partial demolition should be stipulated for, this was not a right which he should ever consider it expedient to exercise, as a citadel with a sea wall only, was in reality no citadel at all.

The demand of a quarter of all naval stores will I fear seem preposterous, but Signor Stabile would not hold out the least hope that it will depart from; and he is equally peremptory as to their right to certain Post Office steamers in addition to the said fourth, one of which is the "Peloro," now in the port of Palermo under the guns of the Mole.

Lord Minto told him very plainly that the question of indemnity for property destroyed in the Porto Franco at Messina was one of fact and of right according to public law, and was not a fit subject to make a bargain upon.

The re-establishment of the privileges of Messina as a free port was, he also told them, an unwise stipulation, inasmuch as it might some day be converted into an argument against their legislating for themselves in these matters upon other points in Sicily.

Lord Minto also informed him as distinctly as possible, that it was not likely that foreign Powers would ever admit a Sicilian negotiator in addition to a Neapolitan, as it would give the King two votes where others had but one. If however they chose a Commissioner or Agent to watch and controul the Neapolitan Plenipotentiary, this might be insisted upon in arrangement with Naples.

The principal point upon which Lord Minto expressed his anxiety was the last paragraph of all, to the effect that in case of an agreement being concluded between the two countries, Great Britain, through Lord Minto, would pledge herself that the stipulations should be fairly carried out on both sides. Lord Minto told them all in the very beginning that this was out of the question, as his instructions most distinctly forbade such a clause, and I was sent last night to repeat this assurance to Signor Stabile and to warn him that it would not even be admitted into the copy about to be forwarded to Naples. Signor Stabile seemed rather pleased than otherwise that such should be the case, and said that Sicily could hardly regret the absence of a guarantee from us, as she would then be free to cast off the Neapolitan connexion altogether, without our having any right to interfere. In short my impression as well as that of everybody who sees what is going on is, that unless Naples accepts these terms before Parliament meets ten days hence, this country will hasten to retract her present offer and set up for herself.

Ever yours, &c.
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

No. 136.

Prince Castelcicala to Viscount Palmerston.

Londra, 30 Marzo, 1848.

IL Sottoseritto, Inviato Straordinario e Ministro Plenipotenziario di Sua Maestà il Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie presso Sua Maestà Britannica, ha in differenti incontri informato coscienziosamente il suo Governo su quello che sua Eccellenza il Visconte Palmerston, Principal Segretario di Stato al Dipartimento degli Affari Esteri, gli comunicava in proposito allo spiaevole stato d'insurrezione in cui da circa tre mesi trovasi la Sicilia.

Ed ha fatto conoscere gli obbliganti voti dall'Eccellenza sua manifestati per una pronta e soddisfacente soluzione, le speranze concepute su la mediazione di Lord Minto, la politica infine, non nuova, del Gabinetto Inglese, affinchè la Sicilia rimanga sotto la dominazione dell'attuale Sovrano, e se fosse possibile con la stessa costituzione.

Sventuratamente il successo non ha coronato tali brame; ed il Sottoscritto include a Lord Palmerston uno squarcio del giornale ufficiale delle Due Sicilie del 18 Marzo, contenente lo elenco delle esagerate condizioni che i Siciliani pongono come ultimatum.

Su tali condizioni ha il Sottoscritto ordine del suo Governo d'intrattenere Lord Palmerston. Ei gli rimette perciò copia del dispaccio pervenutogli da Napoli; e lo premura a leggerlo con quella simpatia dall'Eccellenza sua sempre manifestata pe' destini del Regno delle Due Sicilie, e ad usare presso Lord Minto de' suoi mezzi, affinchè ispirar voglia a' Siciliani sentimenti più ragionevoli, più calmi, e più conformi al vero interesse delle due parti de' domini di Sua Maestà Ferdinando II.

Il Sottoscritto attende ansioso i riscontri dell'Eccellenza sua; ed inanto le rinnova, &c.

(Firmato) CASTELCICALA.

(Translation.)

London, March 30, 1848.

THE Undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies at the Court of Her Britannic Majesty, has on various occasions conscientiously given information to his Government of the communications of his Excellency Viscount Palmerston, Principal Secretary of State in the Foreign Department, relative to the unpleasant state of insurrection in which Sicily has for about three months been involved.

He has also made known the obliging wishes expressed by his Excellency for an early and satisfactory solution; the hopes to which the mediation of Lord Minto have given rise; and in a word the unchanged political views of the British Cabinet, that Sicily should remain under the dominion of the present Monarch, and if possible with the same constitution.

Unhappily these wishes have not been crowned with success, and the Undersigned incloses to Lord Palmerston an extract from the official journal of the Two Sicilies of the 18th March, containing the series of extravagant conditions which the Sicilians have put forth as their ultimatum.

The Undersigned has received the commands of his Government to confer with Lord Palmerston respecting those conditions. He therefore forwards copy of the despatch received from Naples, and begs that he will read it with that sympathy which his Excellency has always manifested for the prosperity of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and that he will induce Lord Minto to use his endeavours to lead the Sicilians to adopt sentiments more reasonable, more calm, and more suitable to the true interests of both portions of the dominions of His Majesty Ferdinand II.

The Undersigned anxiously expects his Excellency's reply, and in the meantime renews, &c.

(Signed) CASTELCICALA.

No. 137.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

(Extract.)

Admiralty, March 30, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, dated the 14th instant, with its inclosure in original, relating to the state of affairs in Sicily.

Inclosure 1 in No. 137.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"*Hibernia*," Palermo, March 14, 1848.

THE accompanying copy of a letter from Captain Codrington will put their Lordships in possession of the occurrences at Messina since his last report transmitted in my letter of the 2nd instant.

Inclosure 2 in No. 137.

Captain Codrington to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"*Thetis*," Messina, March 7, 1848.

SINCE my last letter to you of the 24th February, events have not on the whole progressed quite so rapidly as I then thought probable.

After the taking of Fort Real Basso and the gaining possession of the Terra Nova lines and the Arsenal on the 22nd, the insurgents remained for some time in comparative inactivity, instead of using the most obvious military precautions for securing the fruits of their success by blocking the troops up in the citadel into which they had prematurely taken refuge in their hurried retreat on the 22nd.

For about twenty-four hours after their loss of the Fort Real Basso and the position of Terra Nova, the garrison, probably from its disordered state, did not fire a shot. This valuable time was not taken advantage of by the insurgents.

3. About 4 (A.M.) on the morning of the 23rd as before mentioned, the citadel and Salvador (General Cardamone still being in command) commenced a bombardment of the town, which lasted all the rest of the day and through the night and with partial intervals most of the next morning. Being with Captain Robb in the centre of the harbour at the commencement of it, we distinctly saw the shot and shell deliberately and repeatedly fired at the Marina in various places, and at the Porto Franco or Government bonded warehouse, containing great quantities of merchant's property, which was again, as on the 22nd, set on fire by the shells from the citadel. There were not at this time in those places any batteries or offensive preparations which could have provoked such a fire; and I can only attribute it to a spirit of retaliation on the part of the troops for their recent defeat by the insurgents.

4. General Pronio, who had arrived by the war steamer on the 23rd, while the firing was going on, took the command over General Cardamone; but still the firing did not cease till the afternoon of the 24th, and then only temporarily. To all this firing, with the exception of a few shot at first, the insurgents did not reply, the Comitato having ordered the fire to be reserved. This and their want of apparent activity and their neglect of obvious advantages seemed to have had the effect of restoring the confidence of the troops; for after throwing up an outwork on the Terra Nova in front of the citadel gate and arming it with two guns, the garrison suddenly made a sortie in force on the 25th, before any preparations were complete on the part of the insurgents and when they did not in the least expect it. Apparently the object was partly a reconnaissance and partly a desire to regain a position outside, if not to capture guns, &c.

An advanced position was regained and secured by subsequent measures which previous activity on the part of the insurgents would have prevented. At the time of the sortie the citadel and Salvador commenced what I may call the third bombardment; but since this time, though various parts of the town have been constantly hit by shot and shell and private houses here and there quite ruined, the firing from the King's forces has somewhat altered in character, being now pretty generally confined to those places which, whether justly or no, they suspect as batteries or hostile works in construction.

5. As the missiles from the citadel and particularly Salvador had frequently found their way up the streets leading from the Marina into the town, rendering some of the crossways insecure, the insurgents raised barricades to screen the most dangerous parts. San Salvador probably mistaking these for batteries kept up a continual fire of shot and shell on them, which damaged those parts of the town and at first occasioned a slight loss of life.

6. From the 25th February to the 6th March the insurgents were occupied in constructing and arming as well as their means would allow them, batteries of guns and mortars on the most favourable positions available to them for acting on the citadel and Salvador; while the garrison being well aware of their operations from observations and from the information of spies, annoyed them much from continual shell-firing, which as their practice was never interfered with by any return, gradually became very exact.

7. On the evening of the 6th the preparations on both sides were pretty complete. The garrison had received fresh supplies and reinforcements by the continual arrival of steamers, and the insurgents had received powder, men, and money from Palermo, &c.

Had any proposals of arrangement come from the King's Government at Naples during this interval, possibly all further hostilities might have been stayed; but the insurgents finding that every fresh steam-frigate from Naples brought supplies for the citadel, but no proposition of an accommodation with them, became more thoroughly than ever convinced that the King's Ministry were dealing insincerely with Sicily, and having been exasperated to the greatest pitch by the continual firing from the garrison, resolved to wait no longer.

8. On the 7th at dawn they opened a fire from their various batteries on the citadel and Salvador, which the garrison returned, and during the whole of the day the fire of shot and shell has been kept up on both sides with spirits, the cannonading only ceasing after dark.

9. As nearly as I can compute, about 5000 projectiles were discharged on this day. The general result is decidedly to the advantage of the insurgents. Though one of the batteries was for a short time silenced it was reopened, and the rest continued their fire unchecked and with a very decided effect on their opponents. The citadel is in itself too strong to have suffered as yet to any serious extent, but San Salvador was so perseveringly plied with shot, especially the round part which had previously so annoyed the town, that its return fire was comparatively feeble, and the outer wall of the casement battery at its end was fast crumbling down. The buildings in that fort, some of which were the quarters of the troops, were ploughed up by a raking fire from the insurgents' battery taking them in reverse, and it is my belief that a sudden escalade at night by a body of resolute men would have carried the fort itself with very slight loss.

10. (8th March). During last night the firing having ceased, both parties prepared for renewing the struggle by repairing the batteries, placing more guns, &c. At half-past 9 A.M. the insurgents recommenced action, the garrison soon replying, the general result being similar to that of yesterday in the continued effect on Salvador, though three or four of its guns in sheltered positions still go on.

11. It is almost impossible at this distance to ascertain the effect on the citadel, but from the number of shot and shell that have been seen to fall within its walls, it must be of some importance to life, though the defences are not visibly injured. In the forenoon the insurgents' shells occasioned a conflagration in the buildings of the citadel which lasted for some time.

12. I have at present no means of ascertaining the number of casualties on the side of the garrison, but amongst the insurgents the amount of killed and wounded is small considering the vast expenditure of missiles employed against them. I may roughly estimate their loss in all as about twenty or thirty killed and about eighty wounded. This includes the whole contest.

13. In the afternoon I received from Her Majesty's ship "Porcupine" your order of the 7th, and at once sent Lieutenant Horton to convey to the citadel under a flag of truce the Neapolitan officer who came in her with despatches, while Lieutenant Boyd, accompanied by Mr. Robert Barker of the British Consulate, carried similar information from me to the Comitato.

14. The General at once agreed to the proposal for a cessation of firing, preparatory to a more permanent pacification; but on the part of the insurgents, even if the Comitato had been inclined to put into execution a proposal on those terms (which they were not now, in the present advanced state of things), the people would never have let them do so, from the excited state of the feelings of the whole population against the Neapolitan garrison.

Having received an intimation of this nature from the Comitato I transmitted it in a letter from myself to the General, which was delivered to him shortly after 5 p.m., and then I felt myself obliged, though with great reluctance, to haul down the flag of truce and watch for some more favourable opportunity for endeavouring to bring on peaceable measures.

Hostilities then recommenced (the insurgents firing first) and continued till dark.

15. (9th March). In consequence of a request conveyed to me from General Pronio by a flag of truce, I succeeded in arranging a meeting on board of this ship between the Capitano Gagliardi, the officer brought in the "Porcupine" on a mission from His Majesty the King of Naples, and the Comitato of Messina. The discussion was animated and the conference long, but the Comitato would not agree to an armistice on the terms proposed, unless orders to that effect reached them from the Comitato Generale of Palermo, under whose instructions they are acting at present. Hostilities were consequently resumed in the afternoon, continuing till dark, but the result of this day's firing was more to the advantage of the garrison.

16. (10th). Both parties repairing damages and making preparations. Only one or two shots fired by the garrison.

17. (11th). The same as yesterday. The insurgents commencing the removal of the heavy guns from Fort Real Basso to more favourable positions on the high grounds.

18. (12th). The same as yesterday, only one or two shot being fired by the garrison.

Yesterday I visited all the batteries of the insurgents while no firing was going on; several have been a good deal injured and some of the mortars dismounted or disabled by the failure of beds or platforms; but after some days these may be expected to be replaced in comparative efficiency again. But as the garrison are now well aware of all their opponents' positions, and have been themselves making still more efficient preparations, I don't yet see the likelihood of the citadel being compelled to yield by force.

In the meantime it is due to the Comitato to say that the peace and order of the town have been completely maintained; unarmed people being able to traverse any part of it in perfect safety by day or night.

Some time ago they shot twelve (and subsequently more) thieves convicted of plundering, and they have recently sent back to Palermo a band of armed men from thence whose conduct was becoming disorderly in that way. I am sorry to say the town has suffered a good deal, and after a more recent investigation I cannot now acquit the garrison of having up to the very last day of action fired wantonly and indiscriminately on parts of the town which had not given them the least cause of offence or of suspicion.

The neighbourhood of military points of attack must of course suffer, but convents and private dwelling-houses quite out of any line of fire have been repeatedly struck; and groups of unarmed bystanders, women and children, and foreign officers looking on from the hills, have been fired at in an unmistakable manner.

The consequent exasperation is so great and so universal that I do

not think it probable that any officers and men of the Neapolitan garrison will ever be able to walk in the streets of Messina with personal safety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. J. CODRINGTON.

P.S.—There has been no firing to-day except two or three shot from the citadel.

In obedience to your letter of the 11th, received this morning by "Locust," I am making arrangements for a conference on board of this ship to-morrow morning, should the weather moderate.

Inclosure 3 in No. 137.

Captain Codrington to General Pronio.

Sir, "Thetis," Messina, March 8, 1848.

I AM COMMUNICATED by an officer to the Comitato the intelligence brought from Naples this afternoon by Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Porcupine," the same in effect as that transmitted to you by the officer who was brought to you as a messenger in that vessel from the Government of His Majesty the King of Naples; but it is my duty to inform you that the Comitato and the popular forces will not accede to the terms proposed and will probably recommence hostilities immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. J. CODRINGTON.

No. 138.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

Sir, Admiralty, March 30, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker dated the 18th instant, and of one from Captain Codrington of the "Thetis," respecting the contending parties at Messina.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 138.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, "Hibernia," Naples, March 18, 1848.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of the last report which I have received from Captain Codrington of the "Thetis," respecting the contending parties at Messina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 138.

Captain Codrington to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Thetis," Messina, March 15, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the conference alluded to in my letter of the 7th instant, between officers deputed by General Pronio, commanding the citadel, and the members of the Comitato of Messina, was held yesterday and also to-day on board of this ship, and that the parties have finally separated without being able to come to any conclusion for an armistice, owing to their mutual conviction of the impossibility of carrying out faithfully in practice the proposed articles relating to the total cessation from all military preparations and to the partial reprovizioning of the garrison. With reference to the proposition for my guaranteeing their execution, I may add that experience has proved to me that I could not safely have given the guarantee of the British honour for the faithful observance of those terms by both parties. However I am confident that now that both sides seem convinced of the inutility of shedding more blood, and since they have also professed for the future as much mutual forbearance as is possible under the circumstances, there will be quite as little firing with the present understanding as under the most solemnly concluded armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. J. CODRINGTON.

No. 139.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 1.)

My Lord,

Palermo, March 21, 1848.

I HAVE this morning learned from Lord Napier that the Neapolitan Government had not yet come to any resolution upon the proposals sent over from hence.

This delay is practically equivalent to a rejection of the terms and a renunciation of all connexion with Sicily.

The leading members of the Provisional Government here are extremely sensible of the embarrassment they will experience in the absence of any legitimate occupant of the Throne. Their Constitution warrants the rejection of King Ferdinand, but it requires the substitution of a member of his family, all of whom are so personally odious to the people as to render their acceptance impossible.

The Chief Magistrate must therefore be found in the country, and the Government can scarcely escape a Republican form, which is by no means desired at present by those in authority.

So long as I saw a hope of maintaining any connexion of this country with the Crown of Naples I have laboured for that object; but if the complete independence of Sicily should be decreed by the Parliament at its meeting, as is now probable, I shall not affect to offer any objection which would be unavailing and could only have the effect of producing a change in the sentiments of friendly attachment to England so strongly felt in all classes.

Should it be consistent with the views of Her Majesty's Government, in such an event, to recognise the separate Government of the island and to manifest an interest in its independence, there are some considerations which will doubtless occur to your Lordship as rendering such a course advisable.

I have the honour to inclose the copy of a letter which I have addressed to Lord Napier as a last effort to bring the Neapolitan Government to terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure in No. 139.

The Earl of Minto to Lord Napier.

My dear Napier,

Palermo, March 21, 1848.

THE King of Naples has given away Sicily, which he might have kept.

Had your letter of yesterday, which I have just received, brought an acceptance of the conditions sent over from hence, the Parliament would have been opened by the King's Viceroy, and the royal title would have been securely established.

Nothing but the right I had acquired by the communications previously addressed to me by the Provisional Government to hold very strong and determined language, could have enabled me to obtain any acknowledgment of the King.

Having taken arms for their Constitution of 1812, which provided for the permanent separation of Sicily from the Crown of Naples, their proffered recognition of the King was an important concession reluctantly made to propitiate the friendship of England, which was known to desire, though it had no right to demand, the continued union of the Crowns. Had the Neapolitan Government made timely concessions at an earlier period, a more satisfactory arrangement would have taken place; but as matters stood when I came over, it was a great deal to have got what I obtained from the General Committee, and which should have been thankfully received at Naples.

As to any wild notions that may be entertained of a reconquest of Sicily for Naples by England, in the event of a general war, I hope you will be able to convince Prince Cariati that nothing of the kind is to be expected. I am indeed reminded in the last despatches from England that the CIVth Article of the Treaty of Vienna contains no guarantee, nor anything more than a simple recognition. And if there be any moral obligation resting upon England, it must be in support of the Constitution of 1812, imposed upon Sicily by British influence and authority.

Even a general war therefore, should such a calamity befall us, would not help Naples to the recovery of Sicily; and it must besides be remembered that in these days dynastic questions no longer have their former importance, and that it is impossible to say in what hands the Government of Naples itself might be vested at the close of the war.

I say all this in the hope that you may still have sufficient influence to prevent the total loss of Sicily to Naples, by a full acceptance of the terms that were sent over. It is now probably too late to do this in time to anticipate the meeting of the Parliament under the authority of the Provisional Government, the question therefore will be transferred to the Parliament, but it is yet possible than an intimation made to the Parliament at its opening, that the King of Naples had accepted the proposals of the General Committee, might induce the Parliament to confirm that arrangement.

Do not let people suppose that there is any disinclination to pursue a conciliatory course on the part of those who at present exercise the government here. It is all but the unanimous concurrence of public opinion and popular feeling that forms the obstacle to any connexion with Naples and to the acknowledgment of the King.

I shall remain here a little longer to take the chance of doing some good, but I must not waste too much time when I am wanted elsewhere.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

No. 140.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 24, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note which I have received from his Excellency Prince Cariati, containing the rejection of the terms offered by the Sicilians in their memorandum forwarded to your Lordship by the Earl of Minto, and a printed protest issued by the Neapolitan Government in regard to all acts past or future of the Sicilians in opposition to the authority of His Sicilian Majesty and the order of Constitutional Government by law established.

The resolution of the Council was conveyed to the Earl of Minto by a Neapolitan steam-vessel on the night of the 22nd instant, and will I fear inflame the already unreasonable animosity of the Sicilians against the Neapolitan Government.

The intelligence of a Revolution at Vienna, of which the details are as yet very imperfectly known at Naples, and which was unfortunately not announced until the protest above mentioned had been delivered to the public press, has given the Neapolitan Government stringent reasons for reconsideration and regret, and I believe they would not be unwilling to retract, if it were yet possible, a step which seems to close all hope of an accommodation with the Committee or Parliament of Sicily.

In the meantime advances are being made to the leaders of the Calabrese party by the Government, with the view of neutralising the effects to be apprehended from disorders in that province, and the important post of Intendant of Salerno has been offered to M. Romeo, an influential agitator and principal fomentor of the outbreak at Reggio last year, whose brother was one of the victims of the rebellion and who suffered an imprisonment of several weeks in the galleys.

I have, &c,
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure I in No. 140.

Prince Cariati to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Napoli, 22 Marzo, 1848.

CON le ultime concessioni fatte da Sua Maestà a consiglio del nobile Lord Minto, il Governo aveva sperato di vedere definitivamente terminata ogni differenza con la Sicilia.

Questa speranza diveniva quasi una certezza, avuto riguardo alla dignità del personaggio che si faceva portatore delle concessioni Reali ed alla notissima influenza del nome Inglese in Sicilia. Invece il Governo ha ricevuto in data del 16 Marzo una specie di ultimatum, nel quale per tacere di ogni altra cosa è della forma insolita ed irreverente; i principj che servono di basi ai fatti sono la divisione del regno e l'esercizio diretto delle prerogative Reali subordinato alla condizione della residenza; cioè due principj affatto opposti a quelli che il Governo aveva considerato dover essere ritenuti come basi e limiti necessarj di qualsivoglia ulteriore concessione.

Qualunque siano le opinioni che possono aversi intorno all'utilità di una divisione politica fra Napoli e Sicilia, il Governo non potrebbe, senza il concorso del Parlamento, consentire a dividere il Regno delle Due Sicilie in due regni distinti, nè mutare il titolo sotto il quale Sua Maestà è riconosciuta in Europa, senza promuovere per rispetto all'estero delle questioni che verrebbero ad accrescere gl'imbarazzi della posizione presente.

Similmente qualunque riguardo voglia aversi per le opinioni e pe' desiderj espressi dai Siciliani, è evidente che il subordinare alla condizione della residenza in Sicilia l'esercizio diretto delle prerogative Reali, sarebbe

secondo di conseguenze pericolosissime per quella parte de' Reali dominj che è al di quà del Faro, la cui costituzione non sottopone l'esercizio diretto delle prerogative Reali alla condizione della residenza in Napoli. Questa disuguaglianza di condizioni fra le due parti de' dominj Reali ecciterebbe necessariamente le doglianze de' Napoletani, i quali reclamerebbero a loro favore il privilegio concesso a Siciliani, e così questa concessione anzicchè promuovere la pace e la concordia, resterebbe come un pomo gittato fra i due paesi in segno di una discordia perenne.

Il Governo del Rè prevedendo la difficoltà di condurre a termine una trattativa definitiva nel bollore delle passioni, avea sempre creduto di riservare all' esame del Parlamento le questioni fondamentali delle due parti de' Reali dominj. Una discussione seria e matura avrebbe certamente ricondotti gli animi ne' limiti di un accordo capace a soddisfare i desiderj ed i veri interessi de' due paesi.

In queste disposizioni il Governo avea cominciato ad esaminare le proposizioni de' Siciliani ricevute per mezzo del nobile Lord Minto, e considerando esse proposizioni come l'espressione di un momento di effervescenza e di esaltazione popolare, sperava ancora una volta di fare intendere le voci della ragione, e metter di accordo i desiderj de' Siciliani col principio dell' unità della monarchia e con la dignità della Corona e del Sovrano, chè è debito non solamente del Governo ma di ogni cittadino Napoletano di custodire e difendere come il palladio dell' ordine e della stabilità delle nostre novelle politiche istituzioni.

In queste disposizioni era il Governo quando le ultime lettere del nobile Lord Minto sono venute ad escludere qualsivoglia speranza di ottenere alcuna modifica nella parte essenziale di esse condizioni, e questa ultima comunicazione esprimendo chiaramente per parte de' Siciliani, il proposito deliberato di consumare un atto le cui conseguenze saranno fatali non meno alla Sicilia che all' Italia tutta, rende inutile ogni esame ulteriore ed ogni risposta all' oggetto.

In questo stato di cose non rimane al Governo per pruovare il suo sincero e vivissimo desiderio di ricondurre l'ordine in Sicilia, che impegnare il nobile Lord Minto a suggerirgli tutte quelle misure che egli crede convenienti e conciliabili con la dignità della Corona e conformi al principio dell' unità del regno stabilità e riconosciuta in Europa, e che per recenti comunicazioni ufficiali sappiamo essere stato confermato e dichiarato dal Gabinetto Inglese.

Ed intanto il Governo si crede nell' obbligo di protestare formalmente contro qualunque atto che potesse aver luogo nell' Isola di Sicilia che non sia pienamente in conformità ed esecuzione de' decreti Reali e degli statuti fondamentali della monarchia, dichiarando illegale, irritato e nullo ogni atto in contrario.

La prego, Mylord, far note al nobile Lord Minto queste risoluzioni del Governo e trasmettergli nel tempo stesso l'atto protestativo che le acchiudo, nell' intelligenza che il vapore "Flavio Gioja" è a sua disposizione per condurre a Palermo la persona che ella giudicherà a proposito di spedire.

(Firmato)

PCE. DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 22, 1848.

AFTER the last concessions had been made by the King according to the advice of Lord Minto, the Government had hoped that all differences with regard to Sicily would have been definitively settled.

This hope amounted almost to a certainty, considering the position of the personage who was the bearer of the King's concessions and the weight which the English name has in Sicily.

Instead of this the Government received on the 16th of March a sort of ultimatum which, putting aside all other considerations, is in its form unusual and irreverent; the principles upon which it is based are the division of the kingdoms and the direct exercise of the Royal prerogatives subject to the condition of residence; that is to say two principles perfectly opposite to those which in the opinion of the Government ought to be retained as the foundation and limit of any extreme concession.

Whatever may be the opinions formed as to the utility of a political division between Naples and Sicily, the Government has not the power without the consent of the Parliament to allow of the division of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies into two separate kingdoms, nor to change the title by which His Majesty is known in Europe, without causing questions to be mooted in other countries which would tend to increase the embarrassment of the present position.

Likewise whatever weight may be given to the wishes and opinions of the Sicilians, it is clear that the subjection of the direct exercise of the Royal prerogative to the condition of residence in Sicily would be fraught with the most dangerous consequences to the continental portions of the King's dominions, the constitution of which does not subject the direct exercise of the Royal prerogative to the condition of residence in Naples. This inequality of position existing between two portions of the King's dominions would justly draw down the complaints of the Neapolitans who would claim for themselves the privileges granted to the Sicilians, and so any concession instead of causing peace and concord, would remain like an apple thrown between the two countries, a subject of perpetual dispute.

The King's Government foreseeing the difficulty of concluding any definitive arrangement in the present excited state of the passions, had always intended to reserve for the examination of Parliament the fundamental questions at issue between the two portions of the King's dominions. A serious and temperate discussion would certainly have recalled men's minds within the limits of an agreement capable of satisfying the desires and real interests of the two countries.

With this intention the Government had begun to examine the Sicilian propositions which they had received through Lord Minto, and considering those propositions as the expression of a moment of effervescence and popular exaltation, hoped still to cause the voice of reason to be heard, and to be able to unite the desires of the Sicilians with the principles of the unity of the Monarchy and the dignity of the Crown and Sovereign, which it is the duty not only of the Government but of every Neapolitan citizen to preserve and defend as the palladium of the existence and stability of our new political institutions.

In this mind was the Government when Lord Minto's last letter arrived, which precluded all hope of obtaining any essential modification of these conditions; and as this last communication showed clearly on the part of the Sicilians the intention of committing an act the consequences of which would be fatal not only to Sicily but to all Italy, therefore all further examination and all answer becomes needless.

In this state of affairs the only means which remain for the Government to prove its sincere and earnest desire to reestablish order in Sicily, is to beg Lord Minto to suggest all those measures which he may consider advisable and reconcileable with the dignity of the Crown and conformable to the principles of the unity of the kingdom established and recognized in Europe, and which also by recent official communications we know to have been confirmed by the English Cabinet.

At the same time the Government feels it its duty formally to protest against any act which may take place in the Island of Sicily not in conformity with the Royal decrees and the fundamental statutes of the monarchy, declaring illegal, informal, and null any such act.

I beg you, my Lord, to communicate these resolutions of the Government to Lord Minto, and to send him at the same time the inclosed protest; and I have the honour to inform you that the steamer "Flavio Gioja" is placed at your disposal to take to Palermo the person whom you may think fit to send.

(Signed)

PRINCE OF CARIATI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 140.

Protest of the Neapolitan Government relative to Sicilian Affairs.

MENTRE il Ministero lavorava incessantemente per trovar modo come conciliare le deplorabili vertenze colla Sicilia, e coordinare le pretese espresse negli articoli già pubblicati colla unità ed integrità della Monarchia, da ulteriori comunicazioni sotto forma confidenziale ha acquistato la dolorosa certezza che *non si deve aspettare niuna essenziale modifica delle proposte fatte, e che è inutile qualunque cosa in forma di negoziazione.*

Or non essendo nelle facoltà del Governo di accogliere pretensioni che rompono violentemente e per sempre l'unità della monarchia, che turbano positivamente il risorgimento d'Italia, e compromettono l'indipendenza ed il glorioso avvenire della patria comune, specialmente in questo momento supremo in cui tutti gl' Italiani sentono potentemente il bisogno di affratellarsi, di congiungersi in un solo volere, esso Governo si sente nell' obbligo di dichiarare solennemente al paese ed all' Italia tutta, che domandando i Siciliani condizioni impossibili, mostrano apertamente la deliberata volontà di precludere ogni via a qualsivoglia conciliazione.

Questa determinata opposizione non altera menomamente il vivo desiderio del Governo di accogliere domande eque e ragionevoli; anzi si affida che, calmate le presenti dolorose agitazioni, gli animi possano ricomporsi a durevole concordia. Rimanendo quindi necessariamente interrotte e sospese per ora le incominciate trattative di amichevole accordo, il Governo fa salvo il suo buon dritto, e protesta da ora contro qualunque violazione della unità ed integrità della monarchia, come dall' atto sovrano che qui si trascrive.

Ferdinando II, &c.

VISTI gli statuti fondamentali, e la Costituzione della Monarchia;

Visti i reali decreti relativi alla Sicilia del Giorno 6 del corrente mese di Marzo;

Considerando che qualsiasi modifica alle concessioni contenute in que' decreti per assicurare la durevole felicità de' nostri amatissimi sudditi al di là del Faro eccederebbe i nostri poteri, e violerebbe l'unità ed integrità della Monarchia e la Costituzione da noi giurata;

Udito l' unanime parere del nostro Consiglio de' Ministri;

Dichiariamo di protestare, e col presente solennemente protestiamo contro qualunque atto che potesse aver luogo nell' Isola di Sicilia, che non sia pienamente in conformità ed esecuzione de' succennati nostri decreti, ed agli statuti fondamentali, ed alla detta Costituzione della Monarchia, dichiarando da ora per sempre illegale, irritato e nullo qualunque atto in contrario.

Questo atto solenne, sottoscritto da noi, riconosciuto dal nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato di Grazia e Giustizia, munito del nostro gran sigillo, e contrassegnato dal nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato Presidente del Consiglio de' Ministri, sarà registrato e depositato nell' archivio della Presidenza del suddetto Consiglio.

Napoli, il dì 22 di Marzo 1848.

(Firmato) FERDINANDO.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato, Presidente
del Consiglio de' Ministri,

(Firmato) DUCA DI SERNA CAPRIOLA.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato di Grazia e Giustizia,

(Firmato) GIUSEPPE MARCARELLI.

(Translation.)

WHILST the Council of Ministers was incessantly engaged in seeking some method of arranging the deplorable differences with Sicily, and of combining the pretensions expressed in the Articles already published

with the unity and integrity of the monarchy, from further communications received in a confidential manner it has acquired the painful certainty that there was no hope of obtaining any essential modification in the propositions made, and that it would be useless to attempt anything by negotiation.

Now it being out of the power of the Government to listen to pretensions which all at once and for ever destroy the unity of the monarchy, which especially impede the regeneration of Italy and compromise the independence and glorious future of the common country, particularly at this important moment when all Italians feel powerfully the need of fraternizing, of uniting in one sole purpose; therefore the said Government feels it its duty solemnly to declare to the country and to Italy at large, that the Sicilians in demanding impossible conditions show openly a deliberate intention of preventing any possible reconciliation.

This determined opposition however does not in the least lessen the desire of the Government to pay attention to any equitable and reasonable demands; and it trusts that when this lamentable excitement shall have subsided people may feel disposed to come to a lasting reconciliation.

The negotiations for a friendly agreement remaining necessarily interrupted and suspended, the Government declares its right untouched, and protests henceforward against any violation of the unity and integrity of the Monarchy as it does by the following Royal decree :

Ferdinand II, &c.

Having considered the fundamental laws and the constitution of the monarchy ;

Having considered the decrees of the 6th instant relative to Sicily ;

Considering that any modification of the concessions contained in those decrees for the purpose of ensuring the lasting felicity of our beloved subjects on the other side of the Faro would exceed our powers and would violate the unity and integrity of the monarchy and the Constitution sworn to by us ;

Having heard the unanimous opinion of our Council of Ministers ;

We declare that we protest, and with these presents solemnly do protest, against any act which may take place in the Island of Sicily which is not conformable to our abovementioned decrees, to the fundamental laws and the said Constitution, declaring from henceforth such acts as may be contrary to be illegal, null, and of no effect.

This solemn Act signed by us, ratified by our Minister Secretary of State of Grace and Justice, sealed with our Great Seal and Countersigned by our Minister Secretary of State President of the Council of Ministers, shall be registered and deposited in the archives of the Presidency of the said Council.

Naples, March 22, 1848.

(Signed) FERDINAND.

The Minister Secretary of State, President of
the Council of Ministers,

(Signed) SERRA CAPRIOLA.

The Minister Secretary of State of Grace and Justice,

(Signed) G. MARCARELLI.

No. 141.

Prince Castelficala to Viscount Palmerston.

15, Princes Street, Cavendish Square,
April 3, 1848.

PRINCE CASTELCICALA presents his compliments to Viscount Palmerston.

Prince Castelficala has the honour to send to Lord Palmerston the inclosed despatch which his Excellency read last Saturday.

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Prince Castelvicala will consider it as a particular favour if his Excellency will be so good as to send the answer to the Prince as soon as possible, in order that the Prince may send his courier to Naples with it.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Instruction of March 20, 1848, to Prince Castelvicala.

NEL ricevere il presente si recherà da Lord Palmerston per intrattenere intorno alle pretensioni avanzate dal Comitato di Palermo, di cui avrà egli avuto conoscenza da Lord Minto.

Ella lo pregherà a dichiarare francamente se persiste, come è da sperarsi, nelle idee da esso altra volta manifestate, e da lei partecipatemi col rapporto di numero 2,431.

Esporrà nel tempo stesso i gravi inconvenienti a' quali si andrebbe incontro se l'Inghilterra variasse nel principio di unità delle due parti de' Reali domini.

Procurerà ottenere da lui una corrispondente assicurazione; e lo pregherà di scrivere a Lord Minto, affinché prenda co' Siciliani un contegno che definisca nettamente e senza equivoco le vedute del Gabinetto Britannico.

Mi spederà immediatamente un corriere con la risposta; e pregherà sua Signoria di affidare allo stesso o ad altro che potrà partire contemporaneamente i suoi disposti su l'oggetto.

Inoltre conoscerà le seguenti basi dalle quali il Real Governo crede non potersi appattare:—

1. Il Governo vorrebbe rispettato il principio della integrità ed unità del Regno delle Due Sicilie.

2. Che la prerogativa Reale ne' domini oltre il Faro non sia nè più nè meno limitata di quello ch'è stabilito ne' domini al di quà del Faro dalla Costituzione de' 10 febbrajo, 1848.

3. Che l'amministrazione interna delle due parti de' Reali domini sia divisa e distinta sino al punto da non violare i principi stabiliti da' precedenti numeri 1 e 2.

(Translation.)

March 20, 1848.

ON receipt of this you will go to Lord Palmerston to confer with his Lordship respecting the pretensions put forth by the Comitato at Palermo, of which he will have been informed by Lord Minto.

You will request him to declare frankly whether he still retains the opinions formerly held by him, and stated to me by you in the report No. 2431.

You will at the same time point out to him the serious difficulties which must ensue if England should vary from the principle of the union of the two portions of the Royal dominions.

You will endeavour to obtain from him an assurance accordingly, and you will request him to write to Lord Minto, to the purport that he may observe towards the Sicilians a demeanour which may distinctly and unequivocally define the views of the British Cabinet.

You will immediately dispatch to me a courier with the reply; and you will request his Lordship to entrust his despatches on this subject to the same, or to another who may start at the same time.

I have further to communicate that the Royal Government is of opinion that the following basis cannot be departed from:—

1. The Government is desirous that the principle of the integrity and unity of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies be respected.

2. That the Royal prerogative in the dominions beyond the Straits be neither more nor less limited than as it is determined by the Constitution of the 10th February, 1848, for the dominions on this side of the Straits.

3. That the internal administration of the two portions of the Royal dominions may be divided and distinct so far as not to invalidate the principles established in the preceding articles No. 1 and 2.

No. 142.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

Sir,

Admiralty, March 31, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker dated the 12th instant, and of its inclosure from Rear-Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, relative to Her Majesty's ship "Harlequin" being sent back to Catania and Syracuse.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 142.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 12, 1848.

I TRANSMIT for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, an extract of a letter which I have received from Sir Lucius Curtis, explaining his reasons for sending the "Harlequin" back to Catania and Syracuse, in which I have concurred; and I now inclose a copy of the orders that I have given to Commander Moore during his continuance in that direction.

The "Harlequin" shall be sent to her destination immediately her services can be dispensed with on the coast of Sicily.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 142.

Rear-Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

(Extract.)

Malta, March 6, 1848.

I INCLOSE a copy of a letter addressed to me, dated the 3rd instant, by Mr. Robert Jeans, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Catania, in which he states that the Neapolitan Government having adopted the measure of liberating and letting loose upon society in Sicily the galley-slaves confined in both the insular and continental dominions, has caused apprehensions that the peace of Catania may be disturbed.

Under these circumstances it is my intention to direct Commander Moore to resume his station off Catania, as also to visit Syracuse as occasion may require, until the elections of the 15th are over, in case of any serious disturbance arising which may affect British subjects and property.

Inclosure 3 in No. 142.

Vice-Consul Jeans to Rear-Admiral Sir L. Curtis.

Sir,

Catania, March 3, 1848.

I TAKE the liberty of addressing you in the absence of Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, to express my thanks for the protection afforded to British interests by Commander Moore during his stay here.

Nor is it to British interests alone that his presence has been a pro-

tection. The peace of Catania has thus far been mainly preserved by the moral influence which he has obtained over all classes here.

His departure is a source of serious regret to all; for although comparative peace and tranquillity are at present enjoyed here there is no knowing how soon scenes of disorder may again occur.

The late measure adopted by the Government of Naples of liberating and letting loose upon society in Sicily the galley-slaves confined in both the insular and continental dominions is such as to cause apprehension that the peace of this city may be disturbed, for the Neapolitan troops having by the King's orders evacuated the Fortress of Augusta and proceeded to Syracuse, the galley-slaves from the former place, in number nearly 300 have arrived here yesterday and to-day; and although they have hitherto acted peaceably, yet should they unite with the convicts who have broken out of prison in Catania and who have been hitherto supported by the Committee, a body of desperate men would be collected who would have it in their power at any time seriously to disturb the public peace. The General Committee of Palermo having issued an order for the convocation of the Sicilian Parliament to meet in Palermo on the 25th instant, the election of Deputies for Catania will take place about the 15th instant, and it is not improbable that if party feeling run high much excitement and consequent irregularity may ensue, the self-constituted authority of the Committee having neither power nor influence to repress any serious disturbance.

The peace of a large province of Sicily being dependent upon the state of Catania, it is of the utmost importance that good order and a regular administration of government be maintained here.

If Her Majesty's ship "Harlequin" or any other vessel can be spared for a further period without detriment to Her Majesty's service, a great public good would be conferred, for if outrages recommence here British interests and British commerce must be affected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. JEANS.

Inclosure 4 is No 142.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Commander Moore.

Sir, *"Hibernia," Palermo, March 11, 1848.*

REAR-ADMIRAL Sir L. Curtis having intimated to me that it was his intention to replace the "Harlequin" at Catania for the purpose of protecting British subjects and property, with directions that you should also occasionally look into Syracuse, I have now to inform you that an armistice has been agreed on between the Neapolitan Government and the General Committee at Palermo for an indefinite period, with the understanding that a week's notice is to be given before the renewal of hostilities.

The Neapolitan authorities at Syracuse will have received instructions to this effect by the "Porcupine," and those acting under the General Committee will be duly apprized by the despatch conveyed by the "Locust" which you will forward to them as expeditiously as possible, and it is very desirable that you exert your influence for the faithful observance of this armistice by both parties, taking care to note any infringement of it on either side.

You will therefore make your visit to Syracuse a prominent part of your duty in executing the service on which you may be ordered by Sir Lucius Curtis, and Her Majesty's Vice-Consul will be directed to open and act on the contents of this despatch in the absence of any of Her Majesty's ships.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 143.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 6, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 13th ultimo, inclosing the copy a letter which your Lordship has addressed to Prince Cariati containing proposals for the settlement of the differences between Naples and Sicily, I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve the language held by you in that letter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 144.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 6, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant, reporting your arrival at Palermo and the course pursued by you in your communications with the sub-Committee of the Provisional Government, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the course pursued by you on this occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 145.

*The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 6.)*¹

My Lord,

Palermo, March 25, 1848.

A NEAPOLITAN steamer yesterday brought me the accompanying despatch and its inclosure from Lord Napier, and instantly made sail on its return to Naples without waiting for my answer.

I deeply regret that the Neapolitan Government should have rejected the terms of accommodation which might yet have secured an union of the Crowns of Sicily and Naples. These terms were undoubtedly much less advantageous than such as might have been had a short time before, but they presented, I really believe, the last opening for a pacific recognition of the King's title in this country, and the question may now I fear be placed amongst those, only to be further prosecuted by the perilous appeal to arms.

Intelligence of the French Revolution had been received in Sicily direct from Toulon a day before it reached Naples, and had produced an unanimous determination to assert a complete independence of the Crown of Naples. I might possibly have been able to shake this resolution and to obtain a favourable consideration of the terms offered by the Neapolitan Government, had the decrees of the 6th instant been confided to my hands to be first communicated and explained by me at Palermo; but instead of this, they were published in the Government newspaper and sent over for circulation in Sicily before my arrival, when I found that judgment had already been pronounced upon them, and that I was the only person in the country who had not seen them. It was then too late to overcome the effect of the misconstruction of intentions and motives which had been put on some of those decrees; and even in yielding so far as the bare recognition of the King's title, the members of the Provisional Government incurred considerable danger. This point once carried however, the public gradually became somewhat reconciled to the measure as a pledge of peace, and had the proposals of the General Committee been agreed to at Naples, they would have been confirmed by the Sicilian Parliament which meets to-day.

It is now I understand intended to appoint Don Ruggiero Settimo Regent of the kingdom, with a Council of Regency composed of the heads of departments, also to be named by the Parliament. The more difficult question respecting the sovereignty remains I believe still undetermined. Hitherto the Sicilians profess to adhere to the terms of their Constitution of 1812, and they appeal to the 8th

Article under the head of "The Succession to the Throne" as enacting the disunion of the Crowns of Sicily and Naples. The modified assent given by the King to this Article raises however a question as to its true import. It is argued by the Sicilians that the King reserved only the right of selecting any member of the Royal Family in lieu of the Heir Apparent, to occupy the vacant Throne; whilst on the contrary it is contended at Naples, that the Placet applies only to the legislative and administrative independence of the Kingdom of Sicily, whilst all the rights of the Crown are covered by the reservation. The right of the Sicilians to discard their King, if founded exclusively on this Article, would, to say the least, I think be of a doubtful character: but it is impossible to deny that on other grounds they have a stronger case than England could plead in 1688 to rid themselves of an intolerable tyranny; and I am not surprised that their sufferings for the last thirty years, under a system of misgovernment which had reduced this once prosperous country to its present condition, should have produced the determination everywhere apparent to separate themselves entirely from the Crown and the influence of Naples, and to erect an independent Government of their own. The resources of Sicily are incalculable; and should it now succeed in the achievement of its independence, I see no reason to doubt of its rapid progress in wealth and prosperity. It looks earnestly for encouragement in this progress to the long-trying friendship and sympathy of England; and every endeavour made by me to secure the union of the Crowns of the Two Sicilies having been defeated by the ill-timed obstinacy of the Court of Naples, I cannot but entertain the hope, since the total separation of the two kingdoms is now established, that Her Majesty's Government will look with interest on the regeneration of Sicily as an independent State.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Naples, March 22, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a letter* addressed to me by his Excellency Prince Cariati, containing a refusal of the terms offered to the Neapolitan Government by the Committee of Palermo in the memorandum lately forwarded by your Lordship, together with a printed protest* issued by the Neapolitan Government in regard to the acts of the Provisional authorities or the Parliament of Sicily.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 146.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 6.)

My Lord,

Palermo, March 25, 1848.

WITH reference to my previous despatch I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter which I addressed to the General Committee, announcing the rejection of their proposals by the Neapolitan Government, as also copy and translation of a letter which has been addressed to me in reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 146.

The Earl of Minto to Don Ruggiero Settimo.

Excellency,

Palermo, March 24, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to forward for your Excellency's information the copy of a despatch which I have this morning received from Lord Napier, together with its inclosures, announcing the rejection by the Neapolitan

* See Inclosures 1 and 2 in No. 140.

Government of the proposals conveyed through me on the part of the General Committee of Palermo on the 14th of the present month.

In communicating these papers to your Excellency it only remains for me to express my deep regret that my efforts of conciliation have not been attended with success.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 146.

Don Ruggiero Settimo to the Earl of Minto.

Eccellenza,

Palermo, 25 Marzo, 1848.

IL Comitato Generale ha l'onore di manifestarle di aver ricevuto la partecipazione che vostra Eccellenza si è piaciuta di fargli jeri dell'atto di protesta del Rè di Napoli, pubblicatosi il 22 del corrente Marzo.

E nel rendere alla vostra Eccellenza le grazie che può maggiori per le non lievi premure e sollecitudini che ha voluto darsi in siffata congiuntura, e per la inalterabile simpatia che ha dimostrato alla santa causa Siciliana, risponde alla protesta del Rè di Napoli andando oggi stesso a dichiarare legalmente convocato il Parlamento Siciliano.

Il Presidente,
(Firmato) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.
Il Segretario Generale,
(Firmato) M. STABILE.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Palermo, March 25, 1848.

THE General Committee has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the announcement which your Excellency was pleased to make to it yesterday of the act of protest made public by the King of Naples on the 22nd instant.

And in offering to your Excellency their very best thanks for the great pains you have taken and for the solicitude you have evinced on this occasion, and for the unvarying sympathy which you have shown for the holy Sicilian cause, the Committee replies to the King of Naples' protest by proceeding this very day to declare the Sicilian Parliament legally convoked.

The President,
(Signed) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.
The Secretary-General,
(Signed) M. STABILE.

No. 147.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 6.)

My Lord,

Palermo, March 25, 1848.

THE Sicilian Parliament was opened to-day in great state, the speech, of which copies and translation are here inclosed, being delivered by Don Ruggiero Settimo, President of the General Committee of Palermo.

I thought it right to decline the invitation I had received to attend this ceremony as did Sir William Parker, explaining privately to the President the reasons for our absence.

All the Consuls including those of Austria and Russia having accepted the invitation and intending to be present, I did not feel it necessary to discourage the attendance of Mr. Goodwin, whose absence indeed under these circumstances would have borne an unfriendly appearance.

The speech, as your Lordship will perceive, is little more than an account of the administration of the General Committee, without any attempt to indicate the future policy of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure in No. 147.

Speech of the President of the General Committee at the opening of the General Parliament of Sicily at Palermo on the 25th of March, 1848.

Signori Pari del Rappresentanti dei Comuni di Sicilia.

IL fatto che oggi compiamo innanzi a Dio e agli uomini è il più solenne che possa intervenire nella vita di un popolo.—Oggi si aduna per la prima volta, dopo 33 anni, il General Parlamento Siciliano, disperso dalla violenza di un potere usurpatore; s'aduna per riformare le leggi dello Stato dopo un terzo di secolo, nel quale il mondo è progredito sì rapidamente, e la Sicilia ha sofferto tante ingiurie, tanti danni, tante calamità. E Iddio permette che questo Parlamento nol convochi, no il potere monarchico che gli chiuse le porte nel 1815, ma il popolo vittorioso in quella tenzone disugualissima degl' inermi contro gli armati, degli inesperti e scomposti contro gli ordini militari, le fortezze, le navi, le artiglierie, i preparamenti di guerra studiati contro noi per sì lungo tempo. Riconosciamo, o Signori, la mano della Provvidenza in questa gloriosa rivoluzione! Iddio suscitava dapprima un Santo Pontefice e gli ispirava quegli atti onde divampò l'amore di libertà e indipendenza che covava nei petti Italiani. Mentre i popoli d'Italia nostri fratelli tentavano altre vie più lunghe per conseguire lo scopo, Iddio fu quello che accese il governo ch' ei volea confondere, e fortificò questo popolo Siciliano, al quale avea serbato l'onore di cominciare veramente il gran riscatto. Rendiamone dunque grazie all' Altissimo, e preghiamlo ch'ei regga e conforti questo General Parlamento nella grave opera alla quale si accinge, sì che ne torni durevole libertà e pace e prosperità e grandezza alla Sicilia, non meno che alla gran famiglia italiana!

Prendendo a ragionarvi, o Signori, degli atti del Comitato Generale che viene a deporre nelle vostre mani l'autorità assunta nel calor della rivoluzione, io vi svelerò prima d'ogni altra cosa il segreto della sua politica. Il Comitato ha avuto fede nella rivoluzione e fiducia nel popolo. Il Comitato ha avuto fede nel sentimento politico che fu sempre in fondo del cuor d'ogni Siciliano, l'amore, cioè, della libertà, la coscienza dei nostri dritti costituzionali, e la convinzione che la Sicilia non dovesse dipendere da nessun altro Stato. Questo sentimento profondo, vitale, non solamente resistè sempre agli sforzi del Governo Napolitano che lo volea spegnere, ma, come accade nelle grandi passioni, divampò più forte nei contrasti, si accrebbe delle stesse ingiurie, dei dispetti, dirò anche degli stolti eccessi di quel governo, e si apprese universale e gagliardo in ogni angolo della Sicilia.—Il Comitato Generale creato dal popolo di Palermo, desideroso di consiglio nella lotta impegnata, sin dal primo giorno trovò in questo sentimento il simbolo della Rivoluzione Siciliana, e nettamente l'esprime quando rispose al passato Governo: che la Sicilia non avrebbe posato le armi, se non quando riunita in General Parlamento in Palermo, avesse adattato ai tempi la Costituzione, che per tanti secoli avea posseduto, che, riformata nel 1812 sotto l'influenza della Gran Bretagna, non si era mai osato di toglierle apertamente. Lo scopo della rivoluzione così indicato, corrispose al voto universale; indi quella miracolosa unanimità delle città, delle classi, di tutti quanti gli abitatori dell'isola. Il Comitato Generale non ha cercato altra guida che questo simbolo, non si è messo per altra via che la via dritta, aperta, quella battuta dal popolo; e ciò spiega perchè abbia mantenuto l'universale fiducia, e con essa l'autorità, tra i mille urti e le difficoltà di una rivoluzione che ha scosso la società dalle fondamenta.

Non occorre enumerare qui i particolari della concorde adesione di tutta la Sicilia, della quale si è or ora accennata la cagione. Tutte le città dell'isola ai primi avvisi degli avvenimenti di Palermo, spontaneamente, premurosamente e con trasporti di gioia aderirono alla rivoluzione; quelle poche ove stanziaua qualche presidio militare aggiunsero valorosi fatti alle parole; e così entro pochi giorni Termini, Trapani, Calatani, Girgenti, Milazzo, Licata, s'impadronirono delle fortezze che le minacciavano, mandaron prigionieri in Palermo i soldati del presidio, e, sostituiti

agli impiegati del Governo i Comitati eletti dal popolo, cominciarono a carteggiarsi col Comitato Generale. Così anche tutti gli altri Comuni, nei quali i gendarmi o militari qualunque furono presi e mandati in Palermo. Ma che diremo di Messina, di Siracusa? Messina che avea la prima dato l'esempio di tentare il movimento nel Settembre scorso, lo compì gloriosa sotto le artiglierie d'una delle più formidabili forze che si novellino in Europa. Con quella audacia e quell'animo deliberato, di che sono sì belli esempi nella storia Messinese, la generosa città inalzò in faccia alle batterie il vessillo tricolore, istituì il Comitato Provvisorio, non curò lo strazio del bombardamento nè le infinite calamità d'una guerra sì disuguale, e sì fieramente assalì, che tutte occupò le fortezze, fuorchè il Salvatore e la Cittadella; e il primo ha in parte distrutto, ha recato non pochi guasti alla seconda: che se or sostano le offese da ambo le parti, per certo han più da temere le fortezze che la città.—In Siracusa può lodar tutta la Sicilia un proponimento generoso al pari e forse non minor coraggio, e non ha da piangere effusione di sangue.

Tra sì fatte condizioni di cose, essendo la Sicilia concorde e risoluta a mantenere i suoi dritti e tentandone tuttavia il Governo Napolitano nel partito di riconoscerli, il Comitato Generale non volle aspettar tempo a convocare il Parlamento. E superfluo il dire che non potendosi seguire strettamente lo Statuto del 1812, poichè è tanto mutata la Sicilia e il mondo, il Comitato deliberò quei novelli ordini che ognun conosce, per la virtù dei quali noi rappresentiamo qui il paese.

Il Comitato Generale dee rappresentare adesso al Parlamento le trattative che hanno avuto luogo col Governo di Napoli, le quali riguardano le leggi fondamentali dello Stato. Fin dal tempo in cui si combattea più fieramente in Palermo, il Comitato Generale, non dubitando punto della vittoria che dovea consigliare il Governo di Napoli a riconoscere i nostri dritti, pensò di rivolgersi all'illustre diplomatico Inglese che allora soggiornava in Roma con missione di adoperarsi amichevolmente allo assetto delle cose d'Italia. La prima comunicazione del Comitato non ebbe altro fine che di esporre gli avvenimenti di Palermo, e richiedere l'Ambasciadore Britannico che, nel caso d'un accordo, garantisse colla sua presenza quei patti che la Sicilia avrebbe saputo guadagnar nelle trattative. E ben si avvisò il Comitato, poichè il Governo di Napoli, ammonito dagli avvenimenti, non tardò a chieder la mediazione di Lord Minto nelle quistioni sue con la Sicilia. Volentieri la profferiva l'illustre diplomatico, ch'era già passato da Roma a Napoli. Egli si compiacque di fare al Comitato Generale, per mezzo del Console Generale Britannico in Palermo, quella comunicazione che il Comitato allora pubblicò per le stampe, insieme con la risposta ch'esso le avea fatto, dichiarando di accettare la mediazione nei limiti che fossero assicurati gli antichi diritti costituzionali, e l'indipendenza della Sicilia. Seguirono a ciò molti indugi e andirivieni da parte del Governo di Napoli; e fu questa una delle ragioni che mossero il Comitato Generale ad affrettarsi all'atto di convocazione del Parlamento, senza nè spezzare le trattative, nè insistere su quelle, ma sol mostrando che i Siciliani non si sarebbero mai rimossi dal loro proponimento. Poi il Governo Napolitano aderiva all'atto di convocazione del Parlamento; ma perchè gli altri decreti Regii del 6 Marzo, che sono noto a tutti, non davano alla Sicilia tutte le guarentigie alle quali ha dritto, il Comitato Generale dichiarava tenerli come non avvenuti. Così, venendosi ai termini estremi delle trattative, e portatosi di già in Palermo l'illustre personaggio che le avea condotto, ei fece conoscere al Comitato Generale con precise parole che l'ultimo intendimento suo fosse di porre dall'una parte l'unità della Corona, e dall'altra tutti quegli statuti che potessero assicurare la Costituzione e l'indipendenza della Sicilia. Argomento fu questo d'una lunga e matura discussione del Comitato Generale, nella quale si conchiuse di accettare l'unica condizione sostenuta dal diplomatico Inglese, e di contrapporre a quella i patti seguenti:

Che il Rè avesse il titolo di Rè delle Due Sicilie.

Che il suo rappresentante in Sicilia, chiamato sempre Vicerè, fosse un membro della Famiglia Reale o un Siciliano.

Che le cariche di Vicerè fosse irrevocabilmente fornita di un pieno alter

ego, con tutte le facoltà e tutti i vincoli che la Costituzione del 1812 dà al potere esecutivo.

Che si rispettassero gli atti e impieghi fatti o dati dal Comitato Generale e dagli altri Comitati dell' isola finchè durerebbe la loro autorità.

Che l'atto di convocazione del Parlamento pubblicato dal Comitato Generale facesse parte integrale della Costituzione.

Che gli impieghi Diplomatici, Civili, o Militari, e la dignità Ecclesiastiche, fossero conferiti a' soli Siciliani e dati dal potere esecutivo residente in Sicilia.

Che si conservasse la Guardia Nazionale, con le riforme che potrebbe fare il Parlamento.

Che entro otto giorni le truppe Regie sgombrassero dalle due fortezze che occupavano ancora in Sicilia; e che fossero demolite quelle parti delle stesse fortezze che nuocerebbero alla città a giudizio dei Comitati, o, in mancanza, dei magistrati municipali.

Che la Sicilia coniasse moneta con quel sistema che il Parlamento fosse per determinare.

Che fosse riconosciuta e conservata la nostra attuale coccarda e bandiera tricolore.

Che si consegnasse alla Sicilia la quarta parte della flotta, delle armi e dei materiali di guerra esistenti fin' ora, o l'equivalente in denaro.

Che non si ripetessero nè dall' una parte nè dall' altra spese di guerra; ma i danni d'ogni natura del Porto Franco di Messina e delle merci conservate in quello, corressero a carico del Tesoro Napolitano, non già della Sicilia.

Che i Ministri di Guerra e Marina, Affari Esteri, e tutti altri per affari di Sicilia risedessero presso il Vicerè, e fossero responsabili ai termini della Costituzione.

Che la Sicilia non dovesse riconoscere alcun Ministro di affari Siciliani in Napoli.

Che fosse restituito il Porto Franco a Messina nello stato in cui si trovava avanti la Legge del 1826.

Che tutti gli affari di comune interesse si determinassero di accordo tra i due Parlamenti.

Che formandosi lega commerciale o politica con altri Stati Italiani, siccome è vivo desiderio di ogni Siciliano, la Sicilia vi fosse rappresentata distintamente al par di ogni altro Stato, da persone nominate dal potere esecutivo che risiederà in Sicilia.

Che si restituissero i vapori postali e doganali, comperati con denaro e per servizio della Sicilia.

Questi erano i capi dell' accordo che il Comitato Generale si riservò di stendere, ridurre ai particolari, ed esporre in miglior forma allorchando l' illustre diplomatico Inglese l'avesse richiesto per effetto d'alcuna risposta del Governo di Napoli. Avea aggiunto il Comitato che le trattative fossero rimesse nel Parlamento, non ultimandosi prima del dì della convocazione. Ma di ciò non occorre parlare altrimenti che come di un ragguaglio dei passi dati dal Comitato in questo altissimo affare, i quali pure non han condotto ad alcuna conclusione. Le trattative sembrano spezzate dopo la comunicazione che il Comitato Generale ha ricevuto jeri da Lord Minto, accompagnata da una protesta del Rè di Napoli contro qualunque atto che potesse aver luogo in Sicilia e non fosse pienamente in conformità ed esecuzione (queste son le parole dell'atto) ai Decreti del 6 Marzo, agli statuti fondamentali ed alla Costituzione da lui giurata. Il Comitato Generale, per quanto è in lui, risponde con l'atto che oggi consuma qui solennemente convocando il Parlamento.

Passa il Comitato Generale a trattar degli affari di guerra. La forza della Sicilia nell'attuale condizione delle cose, sotto l'impero delle passioni che bollano in tutti gli animi, non son quelle che si spiegno nelle mostre militari. Faccia chi il vuole la rassegna degli uomini che v'hanno in Sicilia atti alle armi, ne raddoppi il numero coi bambini, coi vecchi e con le donne, misuri, se il può, la possanza del valore conscio a sè stesso, ritrovi gli esempi nostri, antichi e recenti, e vegga allora qual sostegno avrà la Sicilia se sarà costretta a difendere con le armi i propri diritti. Il Parlamento sa questo poichè è composto di Siciliani. Le forze di cui si può far la mostra sono la Guardia Nazionale, la Guardia Municipale, le

squadre armate, la truppe di linea e la marina da guerra. V'ha in Palermo dodici battaglioni di Guardia Nazionale, armata più parte di schioppi; che comincia ad esercitarsi e presto sarà armata compiutamente: la stessa può dirsi già ordinata nel resto dell'isola. Si è aperta in tutta l'isola la reclutazione di più di 14 battaglioni di truppa di linea, due squadroni di cavalleria, due battaglioni di artiglieria e treno, e parecchie compagnie di Cacciatori scelte tra gli uomini delle squadre assoldate: e gli uomini sono la più parte arruolati, provveduti i cavalli dati gli appalti per vestiari e casermaggio. All'ordinamento dell'esercito si è deputato uno sperimentatissimo soldato Italiano, che qui venne nei primi della rivoluzione, e subito partì per andare a governar la guerra in Messina. È formato lo stato maggiore dell'esercito; nominati gli ufficiali di ogni grado montando infino a comandante di battaglione, che si sono scelti tra quei che più si segnarono nei combattimenti della nostra rivoluzione, o tra i militari Siciliani che possan meglio servire alla istruzione della nuova truppa. Gli ospedali militari sono stati provveduti di medici; ordinate le due amministrazioni della Guerra e della Marina, e nominati gli impiegati che le debbon servire. Ciò quanto al personale. Quanto al materiale, oltre all'essersi cavato partito dalle artiglierie e da quant'altro lasciava l'esercito regio delle ritirate, si son messe in opera due fonderie, l'una di bronzo per le artiglierie, l'altra di ferro per i proiettili. Le fabbriche di polvere è l'arsenale di artiglieria lavorano ancora con attività. Di Messina basti il ricordare che si sono oppugnat per tanti giorni le fortezze, che si è aperta tra i nostri una scuola pratica di artiglieria e che a tutti i combattimenti non sono mancati nè gli uomini nè i materiali di guerra. Gli arsenali di Palermo accresceranno questi ultimi, secondo che lo richiedesse il bisogno. Similmente per la marina da guerra gli ufficiali sono stati nominati secondo i meriti accennati di sopra; i marinai non mancano in Sicilia, e si provvede nel miglior modo possibile all'armamento dei legni. Il Comitato in fine non ha trascurato un bisogno principalissimo che preoccupava a ragione le menti del pubblico. Sarà fornito quanto prima un numero sufficiente di fucili per la Guardia Nazionale e per l'Esercito: e il Comitato spera che per ciò basti l'assicurazione sua, senz'altra spiegazione che sarebbe molto inopportuna nelle circostanze attuali.

La finanza dello Stato si è trovata in gravi difficoltà. Senza parlare dei primi tempi della rivoluzione quando era occupato dalle truppe Regie l'edifizio del Banco, nei quali giorni si provvedea con volontarie contribuzioni dei cittadini alle spese della guerra ed ai sussidii per gli indigeati, si comprende di leggieri che le difficoltà non sono cessate col libero uso del denaro che si trovava in Banco appartenente al pubblico tesoro. Da una parte molte entrate son cessate in tutto o in parte, come sarebbe il Macino, che in alcuni comani è sospeso, in altri diminuito; d'altra, come la fondiaria, non si può fare la riscossione con molta attività per le circostanze attuali: altre finalmente, come le Dogane, rendono poco in fatto ancorchè sussistano pienamente in dritto, senz'altra innovazione che due dazi d'immissione a gran ragione soppressi dal Comitato; quello cioè sui libri e quello sulle armi. Minore perdita si è fatta nelle entrate secondarie dello stato, per esempio le Bolle della Crociata e il Lotto, che si è dovuto a malincuore conservar per ora, affinchè non mancasse la sussistenza a moltissimi impiegati. Quanto alle spese, il Comitato ha pagato la scadenza del debito pubblico a tutto Dicembre 1847; ha continuato puntualmente i soldi agli impiegati e soddisfatto le spese gravissime del ramo di guerra e marina, di squadre armate, reclutazione, materiale di artiglieria e marina, ospedale militare, sussidii ai feriti, ed altre simili. Allo stesso ramo appartengono quindicimila once apprestate per fornire i fucili, diecimila once mandate a Messina in numerario e tutto il denaro della casse pubbliche di quella Valle messo a disposizione del Comitato della stessa città. Larghi soccorsi ed elemosine si son dati finalmente sulla cassa del Tesoro per la manifesta necessità di soccorrere le molte persone cui mancavano per gli avvenimenti politici i mezzi ordinari di sussistenza.

Il Comitato non è stato sì preoccupato degli accennati provvedimenti che non avesse pensato ancora ad altre parti dell'amministrazione pubblica. Rimessa su la linea telegrafica da Palermo a Messina; provve-

dinto al trasporto dei fromenti, perchè non scarseggiassero nella città ordinata la ristaurazione degli edifizj di parecchi stabilimenti di beneficenza: fatti diroccare i baluardi del palagio che destavan sì odiose ricordanze; ordinati de' lavori per la conservazione delle strade e somiglianti altre cure di amministrazione. Merita di essere notata particolarmente quella che si è presa della pubblica istruzione, la istituzione di una nuova cattedra nell'università e il lavoro ordinato per la riforma generale delle scuole dell' isola e per la istituzione degli asili infantili. Quanto all' amministrazione municipale, il Comitato ha fatto esercitare dai Comitati delle città e Valli quegli uffici che apparteneano ai funzionari amministrativi sotto il Governo passato.

Finalmente il Comitato si è data speciale premura dell' amministrazione della giustizia e della sicurezza pubblica. Perciò riordinava provvisoriamente i magistrati, prima di giurisdizion penale, poi di civile e di commerciale, e i conciliatori. Il Comitato è stato costretto dalle presenti angustie del commercio a sospendere per breve tempo i termini della scadenza delle cambiali. Per altra cagione anche evidente ha accordato una dilazione ai termini nei quali per legge si doveano iscrivere gli atti dello stato civile. Alla sicurezza pubblica delle campagne ha provveduto con ristorare in ogni distretto dell' isola una compagnia d' arme, destinandone due nel distretto di Palermo sotto il comando di due uomini che egregiamente meritavano della patria mentre si combatteva. Una Guardia Municipale è stata particolarmente incaricata, insieme colla Guardia Nazionale, della sicurezza pubblica in città. Questa Guardia Municipale che ha reso molti servigi, ne promette dei maggiori quando si eseguirà il suo ordinamento militare già disposto dal Comitato, secondo il quale sarà comandata da uffiziali superiori e divisa in compagnie, ciascuna delle quali addetta ad una delle sezioni della città. Tali sono i principali Provvedimenti del Comitato Generale e dei quattro Comitati speciali nei quali esso è stato diviso. La suprema ragione della salute pubblica e la sovrana volontà del popolo han reso legittima, al par che qualunque altro Governo che fosse al mondo, questa dittatura che il Comitato esercitava per tutto il corso della Rivoluzione, e che or viene a deporre nelle mani del Parlamento. Il Comitato, innanzi che si scioglia, eserciterà un ultimo atto di quel potere esecutivo che la Costituzione del 1812 riconosce nello Stato, e che qui non è rappresentato da niuno per parte dei successori di Ferdinando, che era terzo di tal nome in Sicilia al tempo che cessò il Parlamento del 1814. Il Comitato, non tenendo alcun conto del protesta del Rè Ferdinando Secondo, data in Napoli il 22 di questo mese, perchè la riconosce contraria al § 17 del capitolo della Costituzione sulla successione al Trono, dichiara aperto legalmente in Palermo nella Chiesa di S. Domenico oggi 25 Marzo, 1848, il General Parlamento di Sicilia, secondo i dritti imprescrittibili del paese, e richiede Voi, Signori Pari e Rappresentanti dei Comuni, che, passando ai lunghi destinati alle vostre ordinarie adunanze, vogliate colla conveniente speditezza votare una legge su l' esercizio del potere esecutivo nel caso presente.

Per tal modo compiuto il potere legislativo e provveduto all' esecutivo, potranno mandarsi ad effetto le riforme necessarie nella Costituzione, e in tutti gli ordini dello stato; potrà il paese reggersi per un Governo saldo, spedito e forte, che sappia fare rispettare i dritti dell' isola, e, posate le scosse di una violenta mutazione politica, la Sicilia, che ha già acquistato libertà e gloria, potrà rassiecurarle e accrescerle con la pace, col progresso dell' incivilimento, con la moralità pubblica e la prosperità materiale.

Che benedica Iddio e ispiri i voti del Parlamento indirizzati a questo santo fine; ch' Ei risguardi benigno la terra di Sicilia, e la congiunga ai grandi destini della nazione Italiana, libera, indipendente, ed unita!

(Translation.)

Peers and Representatives of the Commons of Sicily,

THE act which we are about to accomplish before God and man is the most solemn which can arise in the life of a people. This day is assembled for the first time after thirty-three years, the General Parliament of Sicily, dispersed by the violence of an usurping Power; it meets

to reform the laws of the State after the lapse of the third of a century, during which the world has progressed so rapidly, and Sicily has suffered so many injuries, so many losses, and so many calamities.

And God has granted that the Parliament should not be summoned by the monarchical power which closed its doors in 1815, but by the victorious people in that unequal struggle of the unarmed against the armed, of the inexperienced and unorganized against military order, fortresses, ships, artillery, and preparations of war so long and so studiously got together against us. Let us, oh gentlemen! acknowledge the hand of Providence in this glorious Revolution! God first put forward a holy Pontiff and inspired him with those acts from whence burst forth the love of liberty and independence which had so long been smouldering in Italian breasts. Whilst the people of Italy, our brethren, sought to obtain their ends by other and longer ways, it was God who blinded the Government which he purposed confounding, and gave strength to the Sicilian people, to whom He had reserved the honour of commencing in earnest the great work of redemption.

Let us then offer up our thanks to the Most High, and beseech Him to guide and uphold this General Parliament in the important task it is about to undertake, in order that it may conduce to the lasting liberty and peace and prosperity and greatness of Sicily as well as of the great Italian family.

Proceeding, Gentlemen, to the development of the acts of the General Committee, which is about to place in your hands the authority which it had assumed in the heat of the Revolution, I will reveal to you in the first place the secret of its policy.

The Committee has put faith in the Revolution and confided in the people. The Committee has put faith in the political sentiment which is ever to be found at the bottom of each Sicilian heart—that is to say, the love of liberty, the consciousness of our constitutional rights, and the conviction that Sicily should be dependent upon no other State.

This deep-rooted and vital sentiment not only withstood all the efforts made by the Neapolitan Government to extinguish it, but, as is apt to be the case in great passions, it burst forth more intensely from opposition; it was increased even by the injuries, by the insults, I may say even by the stupid excesses of that Government, and it was felt strong and universal in every corner of Sicily.

The General Committee created by the people of Palermo being desirous of advice in the struggle upon which we had entered, discovered from the very commencement in this sentiment the symbol of the Sicilian Revolution, and expressed it distinctly when it replied to the late Government that Sicily would never lay down its arms until it should be assembled in a General Parliament at Palermo, to adapt to the times the Constitution it had for many centuries possessed, which, reformed in 1812 through the influence of Great Britain, had never been avowedly taken from them. The object of the Revolution as above defined, came up to the general wish; thence that marvellous unanimity of cities, of classes, of all the inhabitants of the island. The General Committee has sought no other guide than this symbol; it has not taken any but the straight, open path, the path trodden by the people; and this will account for their retaining the universal confidence and with-it authority in the midst of the thousand shocks and the difficulties of a Revolution which has shaken society to its foundations.

It is not necessary to enumerate here the particulars of the cordial adhesion of all Sicily, of which the cause has just been pointed out. All the cities of the island on the first intelligence of the events of Palermo joined the Revolution spontaneously, anxiously, and with transports of joy; those few which contained a military garrison added valiant feats to their words; and thus in a few days Catania, Girgenti, Milazzo, Licata, got possession of the fortresses by which they were threatened, sent the soldiers who guarded them prisoners to Palermo, and having substituted for the Government employes the Committees elected by the people, they opened a correspondence with the General Committee. The same thing happened in all the other communes, in which the gendarmes or other

soldiers were captured and sent to Palermo. But what shall we say of Messina, of Syracuse?—Messina, which was the first to set the example of revolt in September last, brought it to a glorious termination under the artillery of one of the most formidable fortresses known in Europe. With that audacity and determined courage of which the history of Messina can cite such noble examples, the generous city raised the tricoloured banner in the face of the batteries, instituted a Provisional Committee, took no heed of the slaughter, of the bombardment, nor of the endless calamities of so unequal a contest, and assailed the fortresses so fearlessly that she gained them all with the exception only of the Salvatore and the citadel; the former she has partially destroyed, on the second she has inflicted serious damage, so that if attack has ceased for the present on both sides, the fortresses have undoubtedly more to fear than the city. At Syracuse all Sicily can bear testimony to an equally generous disposition, and perhaps not less courage, while we have not to deplore the effusion of blood.

In such a posture of affairs Sicily being united and resolved to maintain its rights, while the Government of Naples is hesitating as to its recognition of them, the General Committee would no longer delay convoking the Parliament. It is needless to observe that as from the changes that have taken place in Sicily and in the world, it would be impossible to follow strictly the Statute of 1812, the Committee devised those new rules which are known to every one, and by virtue of which we here represent the country.

The General Committee must now explain to Parliament the negotiations which have taken place with the Government of Naples relating to the fundamental laws of the State. So far back as the period of hardest fighting in Palermo the General Committee, not doubting for a moment of the victory which would oblige the Government to acknowledge our rights, had addressed itself to that illustrious English diplomatist who was then residing in Rome with the mission of lending his friendly assistance to the settlement of Italian affairs. The first communication of the Committee had no object beyond a statement of the events of Palermo, and the request that in case of an agreement being come to the British Ambassador would by his presence guarantee such a compact as Sicily should have been enabled to gain by negotiation. And this was a wise step on the part of the Committee, inasmuch as the Government of Naples, warned by the march of events, was not long in requesting Lord Minto's mediation in its differences with Sicily. It was readily offered by the illustrious diplomatist, who had already proceeded from Rome to Naples. He was pleased to make to the General Committee, through the medium of the British Consul at Palermo, the communication that the Committee published at the time together with the reply which they had returned accepting the mediation on condition that the ancient constitutional rights and the independence of Sicily should be assured.

This was followed by much delay and debate on the part of the Government of Naples, which was one of the reasons that determined the Committee to hasten to the act of convocation of Parliament without either breaking off the negotiations or insisting upon the acceptance of the terms proposed, but only showing clearly that the Sicilians would never abandon their determination. At length the Neapolitan Government was brought to acquiesce in the Act of Convocation of Parliament, but as the other Royal Decrees of the 6th of March, which are known to all, did not offer Sicily all the guarantees to which she is entitled, the General Committee declared that it considered them inadmissible. The negotiations being thus brought to a term, and the illustrious personage who had conducted them being arrived at Palermo, he made known to the Committee in distinct terms that it was his fixed determination on the one hand to require the unity of the Crown, and on the other all those statutes which should assure the Constitution and independence of Sicily. This was the occasion of a long and mature discussion in the General Committee, in which it was decided to accept the sole condition insisted on by the English diplomatist and to oppose to it the following articles of agreement:—

That the King should be called by the title of King of the Two Sicilies.

That his representative in Sicily, always with the title of Viceroy, should be a member of the Royal Family or a Sicilian. That the charge of Viceroy should be irrevocably invested with a complete *alter ego*, and all the powers and all the restrictions which the Constitution of 1812 imposes on the executive power.

That the acts and appointments performed or given by the General Committee and by the other Committees of the island so long as their authority lasted should be respected.

That the Act of Convocation of the Parliament published by the General Committee should be an integral part of the Constitution.

That the appointments, whether diplomatic, civil or military, and the ecclesiastical dignitaries, should be conferred on Sicilians alone, and should emanate from the executive power residing in Sicily.

That the National Guard should be retained with such reforms as the Parliament might think necessary.

That within eight days the Royal troops should evacuate the two fortresses they still hold in Sicily, and that those portions of the said fortresses which should in the opinion of the Committee or of the municipal magistrates endanger the city should be demolished.

That Sicily should coin money upon whatever system Parliament should determine.

That our present cockade and tricolored flag should be recognised and retained.

That the fourth part of the fleet, of the arms, and munitions of war now existing, or their equivalent in money, should be made over to Sicily.

That on neither side should the expenses of the war be claimed; but that the damage of every sort to the Porto Franco of Messina and to the merchandize contained in it should fall upon the Neapolitan and not upon the Sicilian treasury.

That the Ministers of War and Marine, of Foreign Affairs, and all others for the affairs of Sicily should reside with the Viceroy, and should be responsible according to the terms of the Constitution.

That Sicily should recognise no Ministry for Sicilian affairs at Naples.

That the Porto Franco at Messina should be replaced in the position it was in before the Law of 1826.

That all matters of common interest should be determined by agreement between the two Parliaments.

That in case of the formation of a commercial or political league with other Italian States, as is the anxious desire of every Sicilian, Sicily should be there represented separately like every other State, by persons nominated by the executive power residing in Sicily.

That the steamers belonging to the Post Office and Custom-House purchased by Sicilian money and for the service of Sicily should be restored.

These were the heads of the agreement which the General Committee reserved to itself the right of extending, particularizing and reducing into better shape so soon as the illustrious English diplomatist required it in consequence of a reply from the Government of Naples. The Committee had added that the negotiations should be transferred to the Parliament in case they were not brought to a close before the day of Convocation. But it is not necessary to enter further upon this topic except as a report of the steps taken by the Committee in this most important affair, which however have not led to any conclusion. The negotiation would appear to be broken off according to the communication which the General Committee yesterday received from Lord Minto, accompanied by a protest of the King of Naples against any act that should take place in Sicily not in complete conformity with and execution (these are the words of the Act) of the Decrees of the 6th of March, of the fundamental statutes, and of the Constitution sworn to by him. The General Committee in so far as it is concerned replies by the Act which it this day consummates by solemnly convoking Parliament.

The General Committee now passes to the consideration of the affairs relating to war. The strength of Sicily in the present position of things, under the empire of passions boiling over in the mind of every one, is not such as is displayed in military reviews.

Let any one make calculation of the men to be found in Sicily capable of bearing arms, let him double the number by the addition of children, of old men, and of women; let him measure if he can the force of conscious valour; let him recur to our examples in ancient and modern times, and let him then judge what support Sicily would obtain if she is driven to defend her own rights by force of arms. This is known to Parliament, as it is composed of Sicilians. The forces which can be brought into array are the National Guard, the Municipal Guard, the armed squadrons, the troops of the line, and the navy of war. There are in Palermo twelve battalions of National Guard for the most part armed with guns, which have begun to be exercised and will soon be completely armed; and the same may be said to be already organized in the rest of the island. The recruitment over the whole island has been commenced of more than fourteen battalions of troops of the line, of two squadrons of cavalry, of two battalions of artillery and waggon train, and several companies of Chasseurs selected from the men of the paid band; and the men are for the most part enrolled, provided with horses, and contracts made for clothing and barracks. A most experienced Italian soldier has been charged with the organization of the army, who came to this country at the commencement of the revolution, and started immediately to direct the war at Messina. The general staff of the army is formed, the officers of all grades up to major have been named, selected from amongst those who most distinguished themselves in the combats of our revolution, or from amongst Sicilian military men who may best assist in the training of the new troops. The military hospitals have been supplied with surgeons; the two administrations of War and Marine have been organized, and the employés have been appointed to them.

Thus much for the functionaries. With respect to materials, besides making use of the artillery and other objects left behind by the Royal army in its retreats, two founderies have been put into operation, the one of brass for artillery, the other of iron for missiles. The manufactories of powder and the arsenal of artillery are still actively at work. With respect to Messina it is necessary to bear in mind how many days the fortresses have been besieged, that a practical school for artillery has been opened for our people, and that in all our combats neither men nor the materials of war were wanting. The arsenals of Palermo will augment these last according as the want of them is felt. In like manner officers have been named for the war navy according to their merits, as mentioned above; sailors are not wanting in Sicily, and the best means that can be devised are being adopted for the armament of the vessels. And finally, the Committee has not neglected a very important want which occupied the public mind with much reason. A sufficient quantity of muskets for the National Guard and the army will be very shortly forthcoming; and the Committee hopes that its assurance will suffice without any further explanation, which would be highly inopportune under present circumstances.

The finances of the State were placed in grave difficulties, not to speak of the early times of the revolution when the building of the Bank was occupied by the Royal troops, during which days the expense of the war and the pecuniary assistance to the indigent were provided for by the voluntary contributions of citizens; it will be easily understood that the difficulties did not cease with the free use of the money which was in the Bank belonging to the public treasury. On the one hand many receipts have ceased either entirely or partially, such as the duty upon ground corn, which in some districts is not levied and in others diminished; others, such as the land tax, it is not possible to collect with much activity under present circumstances; others finally, such as the Custom-house, produce very little in reality, although subsisting fully by right, without any other innovation than two import duties, suppressed with much reason by the Committee, those, namely, on books and arms. A less serious loss has been suffered in the secondary receipts, such as the stamps for indulgences and the lottery, which we have been reluctantly compelled to retain for the present, in order that its numerous employés might not be deprived of the means of subsistence. With respect to the disbursements, the Committee has met the engagements of the public debt up to the end of

December 1847; has punctually continued to pay the salaries of the employés; and has met the very heavy expenses of the branches of War and Navy, of the armed bands, recruitment, Ordnance and Marine stores, Military Hospital, subsidies to the wounded, and other similar outlays. To the same branch must be set down 15,000 ounces held ready to purchase guns, 10,000 ounces sent to Messina in specie, and all the money belonging to the public treasury of the Valley placed at the disposition of the Committee of that town. Great succours and alms have been distributed finally by the public treasury, on account of the evident necessity of relieving the many persons in want of the ordinary means of subsistence, owing to the political events.

The Committee has not been so taken up with the above-mentioned measures as to preclude it from attending also to other parts of the public administration. The Telegraphic Line from Palermo to Messina has been re-established. Provision has been made for the transport of corn, lest the supply should fail in the town. The repair has been ordered of the buildings of several charitable establishments. The demolition of the strongworks of the Palace which excited such odious recollections has been decreed; and works for the maintenance of the roads and similar administrative measures have been directed. The care which it has devoted to public instruction is particularly deserving of mention, as also the institution of a new chair in the University, and the preparation of a report with a view to the general reform of the schools of the island and the institution of Infant Asylums.

With respect to municipal administration, the Committee has desired the committees of the towns and districts to take upon themselves those offices which were held by the administrative functionaries under the late Government.

Finally, the Committee have particularly taken into their most careful consideration the administration of justice and public safety. They have therefore provisionally re-organised the magistracy, first that of penal jurisdiction, then the civil and commercial, and the arbitrators (*conciliatori*). The Committee have been obliged by the present difficulties of trade to postpone for a short time the period for the payment of bills of exchange. For other evident reasons they have also agreed to a postponement of the time in which by law the entries should be made in the public registries. They have provided for the public safety of the country by restoring an armed company to every district of the island, allowing two to the district of Palermo, under the command of two men eminently deserving of the country for which they fought. A municipal guard together with the national guard have been particularly charged with the public safety of the town. This municipal guard which has already rendered many services, promises still greater as soon as its military organisation, already prepared by the Committee, is completed, according to which it will be commanded by superior officers and divided into companies, each attached to one of the sections of the city.

Such are the principal provisions of the General Committee and of the four Special Committees into which they have been divided.

The supreme reason of the public welfare and the sovereign will of the people have rendered as legitimate as any other Government in the world this dictatorship which the Committee have exercised all through the course of the revolution, and which they now come to place in the hands of the Parliament. The Committee before dissolving itself will exercise a last act of that executive power which the Constitution of 1812 recognises in the State, and which is here not represented by any one on the part of the successors of Ferdinand, who was third of that name in Sicily at the time that the Parliament of 1814 ceased. The Committee making no account of the protest of the King Ferdinand the Second, given in Naples the 22nd of this month, because they consider it contrary to the § 17 of the chapter of the Constitution on the succession to the Throne, declare the General Parliament of Sicily to be legally opened in Palermo in the church of St. Domenico, to-day the 25th March, 1848, according to the imprescriptible rights of the country, and demand of you, Peers and Representatives of the Commons, that, passing to the places destined for

your ordinary meeting, you will vote with all convenient expedition a law on the exercise of the executive power in the present case.

Thus the legislative power perfected and the executive provided for, they will be able to effect the necessary reforms in the Constitution and in all the orders of the State. The country will be able to rule itself by a sound, expeditious, and strong Government, which will know how to make the rights of the island respected, and after resting from the concussion of a violent political change, Sicily having already acquired liberty and glory, will be able to secure and increase them with peace, with the progress of civilisation, with public morality, and material prosperity.

May God bless and inspire the votes of Parliament directed to this holy end; may He favourably regard the land of Sicily and join her to the great destinies of the Italian nation, free, independent, and united.

No. 148.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 6, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 19th ultimo, giving the opinions expressed by Prince Cariati respecting Sicily, I have to observe that his argument that the conditions demanded by the Sicilians ought not to be conceded, because in his view those conditions were at variance with the CIVth Article of the Treaty of Vienna, was satisfactorily answered by your Lordship; but you might also have added that the CIVth Article contains nothing but an acknowledgment by the Allied Powers of a particular style and title adopted by the King of Naples, and that it does not preclude the King of Naples from changing that style and title if circumstances should at any time induce him to do so.

With regard to the opinion expressed by Prince Cariati that Sicily is of no importance to Naples, and that the Kingdom of Naples would go on as well if not better without being connected with Sicily, it may be observed that if that opinion is well founded it seems strange that the Neapolitan Government should of late have spent so much money and have made such military efforts to retain possession of Sicily; but at all events it is difficult to understand how Prince Cariati, entertaining such an opinion, could imagine that England would take the trouble and incur the expense of sending an armament to conquer Sicily in order to restore to Naples such a valueless and useless possession. But you may assure Prince Cariati that the British Government will undertake no such conquest, and will take no step to compel the Sicilians to reunite themselves to Naples, if the blind infatuation of the Neapolitan Government shall have provoked the Sicilians to sever the connection between Sicily and Naples.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 149.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 9.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 30, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a note presented to Her Majesty's Legation by Prince Cariati, along with a duplicate of the answer of the Neapolitan Government to the ultimatum of the Sicilians, and which was transmitted to the Earl of Minto by the first opportunity after its receipt.

The inclosed report from the Neapolitan Minister at Berlin relative to the affairs of Sicily and communicated to me by Prince Cariati has also been forwarded to the Earl of Minto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure I in No. 149.

*Prince Cariati to Lord Napier.**Napoli, 23 Marzo, 1848.*

NEL mentre il Real Governo era intento a ricercare i mezzi onde conciliare gl' interessi e la dignità della Corona con le pretese del Comitato di Palermo contenute nella specie di ultimatum del 16 corrente, ha acquistato la dolorosa certezza che veruna essenziale modifica verrebbe consentita a quelle inammissibili proposte, dirette evidentemente a rompere con violenza l'unità del Regno delle Due Sicilie.

In tali circostanze, e giudicando non essere in sua facoltà di decidere sì grave quistione, il Consiglio dei Ministri è stato di unanime opinione che altro partito non rimaneva a Sua Maestà il Re che di protestare contra qualunque atto che potesse aver luogo nei suoi Dominj di oltre il Faro, in opposizione dei statuti fondamentali della monarchia.

La Maestà Sua uniformandosi nella sua saggezza a siffatto parere ha firmato ed ordinato che si desse la maggior pubblicità alla formale protesta di cui il Sottoscritto, &c., ha l'onore di rimettere copia a Lord Napier e pregandola di portarla sollecitamente a cognizione del suo Governo per l'uso che potrà nell'avvenire derivarne.

Il Sottoscritto nel praticare ciò, e trovandosi di avere già rimessa a Lord Napier la risposta del Real Governo all' ultimatum del Comitato Palermitano passatogli dal Signor Incaricato d'Affari, e della quale è qui unito il duplicato, dichiara al tempo stesso che il Governo di Sua Maestà accoglierà sempre con premura e benevolenza le eque domande che potranno venirgli dirette dai sudditi di Sua Maestà di oltre il Faro, ed ha impegnato Lord Minto a suggerirgli le misure più conducenti a conciliare i desiderj dei popoli della Sicilia con la dignità della Corona e l'unità del regno stabilita e riconosciuta ancora per recenti comunicazioni ufficiali da tutti i Gabinetti di Europa, e particolarmente dal Britannico.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Firmato)

PRINCIPE DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, March 23, 1848.

WHILST the Royal Government was occupied in finding the means of combining the interests and the dignity of the Crown with the pretensions of the Committee of Palermo expressed in a kind of ultimatum of the 16th instant, it acquired the painful certitude that no essential modification would be admitted of those inadmissible propositions, which are clearly intended to destroy the unity of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Under these circumstances the Council of Ministers being of opinion that it is not in their power to decide so grave a question, have unanimously concluded that nothing remained for His Majesty to do but to protest against any act which may take place in his dominions on the other side of the Faro contrary to the fundamental laws of the monarchy.

His Majesty having in his wisdom adhered to this resolution has signed and has ordered that the utmost publicity should be given to the formal protest, a copy of which the Undersigned, &c., has the honour to transmit to Lord Napier, &c., with a request to communicate it immediately to his Government for any use that may hereafter be made of it.

The Undersigned having already transmitted to Lord Napier the answer of this Government to the ultimatum of the Committee of Palermo communicated to him by the Chargé d'Affaires, and of which answer a duplicate is herewith inclosed, declares at the same time that His Majesty's Government will always receive favourably the reasonable demands which may be made by His Majesty's subjects beyond the Faro, and has requested Lord Minto to suggest to them the measures most conducive to combine the wishes of the Sicilians with the dignity of the Crown and the

union of the Kingdom established and acknowledged also, as it appears by recent official communications, by all the Cabinets of Europe and in particular by that of Great Britain.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE OF CARIATI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 149.

Baron Antonini to the Duke of Serra Capriola.

Eccellenza,

Berlino, 15 Marzo, 1848.

Mi viene assicurato che con un corriere proveniente da Londra ieri transitato da qui per Pietroburgo, il Barone Brunnow, Inviato Russo presso Sua Maestà Britannica, rende conto di aver seriamente intrattenuto Lord Palmerston in nome dello Imperatore sull' assunto di Sicilia che gli sta somamente a cuore, riguardando quel Sovrano come un interesse Europeo, che quell' isola seguiti sotto il dominio del Re nostro Signor a formare il Regno Unito delle Due Sicilie.

Ed il Barone di Brunnow additando al succennato Lord la similitudine che l'Irlanda può presentare con la Sicilia, à fatto rimarcare come nocivo all'unità di reame sia un Parlamento separato, e come con quella unità saria incompatibile un' armata separata da quella di Napoli, ed esclusivamente Siciliana la guarnigione di Sicilia.

Lord Palmerston assicurando che non avrebbe mai riconosciuta la indipendenza della Sicilia, à abbondato nel senso dell' Inviato Russo, come abbondò nel senso del' Inviato Prussiano (mio rapporto de' 3 corrente) sulla necessità di mantenere tutte le integrità di tutte le divisioni territoriali create da trattate, e per conseguenza la conservazione del Regno Unito delle Due Sicilie, assicurando che in questo senso erano state date le istruzioni a Lord Minto, e che le avrebbe nello stesso senso ripetute, onde ogni opera aggiunga per secondare una convenevole conciliazione con la Sicilia, anche per provare quanta importanza metteva il Gabinetto Britannico alle premure espresse dall' Imperatore di Russia.

Con profondo, &c.

(Firmato)

BARONE ANTONINI.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Berlin, March 15, 1848.

I HAVE been assured that a courier who passed through here yesterday from London, on the road to St. Petersburg, is the bearer of a communication from Baron Brunnow, Russian Envoy to Her Britannic Majesty, by which it appears that he has had a serious conversation in the Emperor's name with Lord Palmerston upon the affairs of Sicily, which he has particularly at heart, as that Sovereign considers it a matter of European interest that that island should continue to form part of the United Kingdom of the Two Sicilies under the dominion of the King our master.

Baron Brunnow also having pointed out to Lord Palmerston the similarity which exists between Ireland and Sicily, remarked how hurtful to the unity of the kingdom would be a separate Parliament, and how incompatible with that unity would be a separate army and a garrison in Sicily exclusively Sicilian.

Lord Palmerston assuring him that he never had recognized the independence of Sicily, agreed entirely with the Russian Envoy, as he also entirely agreed with the Prussian Envoy (as mentioned in my report of the 3rd current) upon the necessity of maintaining the integrity of the territorial divisions established by treaty, and consequently of maintaining the unity of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, assuring him that the instructions given to Lord Minto were in this sense, and that he would

repeat them in the same sense, so that every assistance might be lent to effect a proper reconciliation with Sicily, and also to show the importance the British Government attach to the wish of the Emperor of Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) BARON ANTONINI.

No. 150.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 9.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 30, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo descriptive of the Sicilian elections and the first transactions of the Parliament.

The affairs of Sicily do not attract much remark on the part of the Government or the public of Naples, whose attention is absorbed by the strife of parties at home and the war in Lombardy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 150.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, March 25, 1848.

THIS being the day appointed for the opening of Parliament the morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells and the firing of cannon, demonstrations which collected a large crowd on the Marina at an early hour. At 11 o'clock the Senate of Palermo, the Supreme Court of Justice, the officers of the land and sea forces, the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots and Rectors, and lastly the Etat-Major of the Municipal Guard, repaired in state and in full costume to the Church of St. Domenico, where the Members of both Chambers, the Members of the General Committee and an immense crowd of spectators, foreign as well as native, hastened to assemble. Low mass was celebrated and "Veni Creator Spiritus" chaunted amidst salvos of artillery from the forts and the flotilla. The ceremony over, the President of the General Committee ascended the tribune and read a long discourse; which was received with thunders of applause. The opening of Parliament having been declared, the Peers and Deputies adjourned until 4 o'clock this afternoon, when they will assemble in their respective Chambers and proceed to verify their powers previous to the dispatch of business.

The general list of Deputies elected, not having yet been published, it is impossible to form a sound judgment of the composition of the Chamber. A careful review of a partial list affords ground to believe that the Constitutional party predominates over the Republican, the strength of which is said to be considerable. The majority consists of lawyers, employes, and men of letters, but a fair number of landed proprietors have seats in the Chamber.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 150.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, March 26, 1848.

YOUR Lordship will see by the "Parlamento" that the Duca di Serra di Falco has been chosen President of the Chamber of Peers, with Marchese de la Cerda for his Vice, and the Marchese di Torrearsa President of the Chamber of Commons, with Professor Emrico Amari for his Vice; all good selections.

27th March. Last night La Farina and Marano (of Catania) were chosen Secretaries of the Chamber of Commons. The Peers passed a bill appointing a Regent of the kingdom in the person of D. Ruggiero Settimo. This appointment was changed by the Commons into a President of the Government of Sicily, responsible himself and authorized to choose six responsible Ministers, without the right of peace and war, without the *вето* or *placet*, and the whole provisionally.

The Chamber of Commons has named D. Ruggiero Settimo President of the Government of Sicily, a nomination which was carried by acclamation.

The Chamber of Peers has passed the bill of the Commons unanimously. The deputation which carried it up, was received with applause, and the announcement to the public was followed by the loudest acclamations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

No. 151.

Lord Bloomfield to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, March 27, 1848.

I RECEIVED this morning your Lordship's despatch of the 15th instant, respecting Lord Minto's mission to Italy. I have communicated it to Count Nesselrode, and hope that the information which it contains will effectually correct the erroneous impressions that have reached the Russian Government on this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) BLOOMFIELD.

No. 152.

Viscount Palmerston to Prince Castelvicala.

Foreign Office, April 10, 1848.

PRINCE CASTELCICALA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies, communicated on the 1st instant to the Undersigned, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a despatch which he had received from the Neapolitan Government, directing him to call upon the British Government to declare whether it still retained the wish expressed on former occasions by the Undersigned, that the union of the two portions of the dominions of His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies might be preserved, and if so, that the British Government should instruct Lord Minto to observe towards the Sicilians a demeanour which might leave no room for doubt as to the views of the British Cabinet. The despatch then proceeds to lay down the bases on which alone the Neapolitan Government consider that that union should rest. In execution of this instruction

Prince Castelficala at the same time presented an official note bearing date the 30th ultimo, embodying this demand.

As the tenor of these documents might lead to a misapprehension of the part taken by Her Majesty's Government and by the Earl of Minto with reference to these matters, the Undersigned in replying to Prince Castelficala, will have the honour to recapitulate what were the circumstances under which the Earl of Minto undertook to mediate between His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies and his subjects; what were the views of Her Majesty's Government in approving of his Lordship's decision; and what have been the causes which have rendered the endeavours of the Earl of Minto abortive, and have disappointed the hopes and wishes of Her Majesty's Government.

Prince Castelficala will recollect that it was in consequence of a request addressed by His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies to Lord Minto, and of an application from the Provisional Government established at Palermo to Lord Napier, that the Earl of Minto proceeded to Naples for the purpose of endeavouring to bring about by his good offices, a good understanding and reconciliation between His Majesty and His Sicilian subjects. Her Majesty's Government on learning the step taken by the Earl of Minto immediately instructed his Lordship to use his best endeavours to preserve, not only the union of the two countries under one Crown, but the legislative union of the two countries. These instructions did not reach the Earl of Minto until some time after his arrival at Naples, but thoroughly in possession of the opinions of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the questions which are at present agitating Europe, his Lordship, of his own accord, before those instructions reached him, did everything in his power to bring about the arrangement desired by Her Majesty's Government. Lord Minto however soon had occasion to convince himself, that owing to the long hesitation of the Neapolitan Government to grant the moderate reforms with which the Sicilians would in the first instance have been satisfied, a legislative union of the two countries had become no longer obtainable, and he was therefore obliged to limit the advice which he tendered to the Neapolitan Government to the recommendation of such measures as should preserve the union of the two countries under one Crown. The Undersigned is convinced that the conditions of arrangement recommended by the Earl of Minto would have been accepted by the Sicilians if they had been at once offered by the Government of Naples. This was indeed admitted by the Members of the Provisional Government at their interview with the Earl of Minto on his arrival at Palermo. But the Neapolitan Government having lost precious time in futile discussions, the news of the French Revolution reached Palermo before the Earl of Minto could get there, and this intelligence essentially changed the views of the Provisional Government.

On the arrival of the news of the French Revolution at Naples before the departure of the Earl of Minto for Palermo, his Lordship had foreseen the effect which this event would have upon the Sicilians, and his Lordship in transmitting to Prince Cariatì his note of the 6th of March, in which he recorded the terms which he and the Neapolitan Government had agreed should be offered to the Sicilians, accompanied that note by a memorandum of the same date, stating his opinion that the concessions therein made would no longer suffice, and that the events in France rendered more prompt and extensive concessions necessary in order to reestablish the Royal authority; but at the same time stating his readiness still to proceed to Palermo and to endeavour to induce the Sicilians to accept the terms which had been settled.

Lord Minto on arriving at Palermo found matters exactly in the state which he had anticipated. The revolution in France had raised the pretensions of the Sicilians, and they were now no longer disposed to agree to the arrangement proposed by the Neapolitan Government which they would have gladly accepted a week before. Complete separation from the Neapolitan Crown, although under a Neapolitan Prince, was what they now demanded. The Earl of Minto however refused to land or to treat with them except on the condition of the union of the Crowns being preserved, and the Provisional Government in consequence abandoned this

pretension, and framed the counter-proposals which the Earl of Minto undertook to remit to the Neapolitan Government, but which have subsequently been rejected by them.

These long delays on the part of the Neapolitan Government led to these results. They were no fault of Lord Minto's, but arose from that blindness to the progressive march of events which throughout the whole of these transactions, has characterized the Neapolitan Government. Lord Minto, acting in strict accordance with the instructions and opinions of Her Majesty's Government, has done all that it was possible for him to do in order to retain Sicily for the King of Naples; and if Sicily shall by this time have separated itself from the Neapolitan Crown, it will have been because the prudent advice and urgent entreaties of the Earl of Minto have been disregarded by the advisers of His Neapolitan Majesty.

There is one more point with respect to which the Undersigned is desirous to prevent misapprehension. In a conversation which passed between Prince Cariati and Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Naples, after the receipt of the ultimatum of the Provisional Government, Prince Cariati expressed an opinion that if Sicily should cast off its allegiance, it would be restored to Naples by the arms of the Allied Powers. Her Majesty's Government are of course unable to say what might be the decision of the other Powers with respect to this point, but as regards any measures to be taken by Her Majesty's Government for such a purpose, the Undersigned begs to inform Prince Castelfidardo that the expectations entertained by Prince Cariati are entirely groundless. The Treaty of Vienna contains no guarantee of the union of Sicily and Naples. That Treaty contains only a simple recognition of the fact; and if there be any moral obligation resting upon England in this matter, it would rather be in favour of the Constitution of 1812, which was established in Sicily under British influence. But less importance would appear to attach to the inability of Great Britain to act in the manner desired by Prince Cariati, as Prince Cariati on the occasion above referred to informed Lord Napier "That Naples could do perfectly well without Sicily; that it had formerly, for ten years during the war, so existed and flourished; that Sicily contributed in no degree to the welfare of Naples, being only of dynastic importance for the House of Bourbon, but of no material interest for the Kingdom of Naples; and that for his part, as a Neapolitan, he wished that the connection would be severed for ever."

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

No. 153.

Viscount Palmerston to the Earl of Minto.*

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 11, 1846.

I HEREWITH transmit to your Lordship, for your information, a translation of a note† from the Neapolitan Minister at this Court, inclosing a despatch which he has received from his Government as to the preservation of the union of the two portions of the dominions of His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies.

I also inclose a copy‡ of my reply to Prince Castelfidardo.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

* A similar despatch addressed on the same day to Lord Napier.

† See No. 141.

‡ See No. 152.

No. 154.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

Sir,

Admiralty, April 11, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker dated the 25th ultimo, reporting occurrences at Palermo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 154.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 25, 1848.

I REQUEST you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that a small Neapolitan Government steamer arrived at this anchorage at 9 A.M. yesterday from Naples under a flag of truce with a despatch from the Neapolitan Government for the Earl of Minto, positively refusing the Sicilian terms of adjustment and inviting his Lordship to suggest others in accordance with their own views.

2. I did not receive a line by this vessel, and her commander in obedience to his orders was in such haste to leave the bay that he declined even waiting until Lord Minto's despatch could be landed, and immediately stood to the northward on his return.

3. This communication has naturally produced great excitement in all classes of the Sicilians.

4. Their Parliament assembled this morning, in the Church of St. Domenico and the ceremony passed off with perfect order and quietness agreeably to the accompanying programme. I inclose also the copy of an invitation which was addressed to me by the Committee to be present on the occasion. Lord Minto and myself however deemed it prudent to decline this honour, but a portion of the officers of the squadron had permission to attend; and it is generally anticipated that the appointment of a Regency will be one of the first acts of the Parliament.

5. The "Porcupine" is held in readiness for the conveyance of Lord Minto's despatches to Naples and England, and I shall not fail to inform their Lordships if any measure of importance occurs in the Senate of Palermo before her departure.

6. I now inclose for their Lordships' information the copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Goodwin, Her Majesty's Consul here, representing on the authority of an English merchant from Marsala, that an armed mob had overpowered the national guards and held possession of that town since the 21st instant. I have in consequence detained the "Blldog" for the protection of the British residents and their property, and inclose a copy of my instructions for Commander Key's guidance.

7. I presume that Lord Minto will not be disposed to prolong his stay here after the return of the "Porcupine" from Naples in which direction the squadron will probably then proceed.

8. I propose in the meantime to visit Messina in one of the steam-vessels to make my personal observations on the effect produced there by the King's rejection of the Sicilian ultimatum, anticipating that the immediate result will be a renewal of the bombardment, for it seems the intended armistice has never been formally agreed to by either party, though both have abstained from firing.

9. I inclose the copy of a letter which I have just received from Commodore Moore of the "Harlequin," dated at Catania the 22nd March.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 154.

The President of the General Committee at Palermo to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

(Translation.)

TO-MORROW, the 25th of March, the General Sicilian Parliament will assemble in the church of St. Domenico.

The President of the General Committee therefore begs his Excellency Admiral Parker and all the officers of the English fleet to assist thereat, with which view he transmits a printed copy of the programme.

With sentiments, &c.

Done at Palermo, March 24, 1848.

Inclosure 3 in No. 154.

Programme for the Solemn Opening of the General Parliament of Sicily at Palermo, the 25th day of March, 1848.

(Translation.)

IN order to give the greatest possible effect to Sicily's most solemn day, when assembled in General Parliament she will determine the basis of the civil regulations which may secure to the country the rights regained by our glorious Revolution, to avoid the confusion which might be caused by the novelty of the solemnity, to render accessible to the greatest possible numbers this truly national fête, and to maintain inviolate the admirable good order of which our people have given such splendid proofs, the General Committee have laid down the following programme:—

1. The solemn opening of the Parliament will take place in the Church of St. Domenico.

2. At 11 A.M. of the 25th March will assemble at the said Church—

1st. The Senate of Palermo in full uniform, with the pomp usual on grand occasions.

2nd. The Supreme Court of Justice, as representing the Magistracy, in their robes.

3rd. All the Officers of the land and sea forces, to the rank of Captains, Adjutants, Majors, and all the Officers of the Staffs.

4th. The Bishops, Archbishops, Abbots, Priests, who are now at Palermo.

5th. The Staff of the Brigade of the National Guard.

3. In the cross of the church there will be two ranks of places on each side; in that on the right will sit the Senate and functionaries named in Nos. 1 to 4. Opposite, the Foreign Diplomats and distinguished personages, and in another section the Consular Body.

In the centre will be places where the Members of Parliament, Peers, and Deputies, are to sit promiscuously.

Close to these will be the places for the members of the General Committee.

In the remaining portion of the principal nave will be admitted all the other functionaries and officers above specified.

A row of seats will be placed for all the ladies who may be admitted.

The two side naves will be open to all the public who wish to enter.

4. The Members of the two Chambers of the Committee, of the Squadron, and of the National Guard, will each have the right to give one ticket to a lady for admission to the ceremony.

All those who have a right to give tickets will obtain them at the Committee of the Interior.

5. The National Guard will be on duty at the doors, and in the interior of the Church.

6. At half-past 11 A.M. all the Members of Parliament and other Functionaries and Officers are to be in their respective places.

7. The General Committee in the meantime moving from their place of assembly, will proceed in a body to the Church of St. Domenico by the Strada del Cassaro, and are to be in their place at 12 precisely, which will be announced to the people by the bell of St. Antonio.

8. On arriving at the Church Divine Service will commence with a solemn low mass.

After the mass, "Veni Creator Spiritus" will be sung, and the service will conclude with the Benediction of the Hosts.

9. From the commencement to the end of the sacred ceremony the Fort of Castellamare and that of Garitta, as well as the vessels of war of the National Marine, will fire 101 guns.

10. After the benediction the President of the General Committee will advance, and having saluted the Parliament will ascend a tribune prepared for the purpose in a central position of the Church, and will read or cause to be read the Opening Speech, which finished he will declare the Parliament opened; the Members of the two Chambers will then retire to commence at 4 o'clock P.M. their ordinary sittings.

11. The National Guard, the Municipal Guard, and the Armed Squadrons will be posted from the Place of St. Domenico all along the Cassaro.

The President of the Committee of War, General commanding the National Guard, will arrange the order in which the public force is to be formed.

It is useless to recommend to the public the splendour which is desirable on such a solemn day, the spontaneous sentiment of the greatness of the national act to be fulfilled will suffice to inspire the joy, more pure when allied to the gravity of the pride which responds to the majesty of a free and legally constituted people.

Palermo, March 23, 1848.

(Signed) RUGGIERO SETTIMO,
President of the General Committee.
(Signed) M. STABILE,
Secretary-General.

Inclosure 4 in No. 154.

Consul Goodwin to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

Palermo, March 24, 1848.

LETTERS from Marsala dated 23rd instant state that since the 21st instant that town has been in the hands of an armed mob, by whom the National Guard has been overpowered and large sums of money levied on the native inhabitants.

The British merchants of Marsala, whose property, consisting of buildings, wine, machinery, &c., is of great value, are desirous that some force should be sent thither for their protection, and one of them has suggested that a small war-steamer drawing not more than twelve and a half feet should be employed for that purpose.

I do myself the honour to lay this suggestion before your Excellency in the hope that you may be induced to meet the wishes of the parties interested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JNO. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 5 in No. 154.

Commander Moore to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Harlequin," Catania, March 22, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I returned last night from Syracuse

2. On my arrival at the latter port I found that the "Porcupine" not

having arrived with the instructions to Marshal Palma concerning the armistice, he had declined to enter into any negotiation with the General Committee. This however was of little consequence, as there have never been any hostilities between them, as owing to the weakness both in arms and numbers of the people of Syracuse the town has always remained in the power, and in fact at the mercy, of Marshal Palma, who nevertheless very judiciously for the public tranquillity allowed the people to form a Committee, organize a National Guard, and proceed with the elections for the Parliament at Palermo.

3. The Neapolitan steamer "Archimede" having arrived on the 19th, and Marshal Palma having by her received instructions which authorized him to treat, suggested that the terms of the armistice should be settled on board the "Harlequin;" in consequence a meeting took place on the 20th, at which a Convention was agreed to on the basis of the *statu quo*, neither party to create any works or receive reinforcements of men or munitions of war, and eight days' notice to be given previous to the commencement of hostilities.

4. From the tranquillity which has hitherto been unbroken at Syracuse and the moderation and forbearance which has been shown throughout by Marshal Palma, I do not anticipate any infringement of this Convention; but it is my intention to return to Syracuse if I receive no instructions to the contrary by the Palermo post to-morrow.

5. The elections both at this place and Syracuse have terminated quietly in the election of men generally considered very fit for their office.

Catania is perfectly tranquil.

6. As it is my intention to call here occasionally, should you have any occasion to send me instructions may I request you will inclose them to the care of Mr. Jeans, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Catania, with whom I will leave directions to forward them should I be absent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MOORE.

Inclosure 6 in No. 154.

Orders issued by Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

By Sir William Parker, Bart., G.C.B., &c.

YOU will receive herewith the copy of a letter which has been addressed to me by Mr. Goodwin, Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, representing that the town of Marsala has been in the hands of an armed mob since the 21st instant, and that the British merchants residing there are desirous of protection for their property.

This account is also corroborated by the American Acting Vice-Consul, who arrived here last night in a steamer from Marsala.

You will therefore proceed without loss of time to Marsala with Her Majesty's steam sloop "Bulldog" under your command, for the purpose of rendering such protection as you may be able, consistently with the safety of the "Bulldog" at an unsheltered anchorage, to the persons and property of Her Majesty's subjects.

You will on your arrival communicate with Her Majesty's Vice-Consul and endeavour to obtain a correct list of the numbers of British residents at Marsala, distinguishing the natives of England and those of Malta, with their occupations and the number of men, women, and children comprised in their families.

It is also desirable that you should yourself ascertain the extent of British property at Marsala which cannot be easily removed in case of necessity.

You are authorized to receive on board any British subjects who may wish to take refuge from actual danger, but you must distinctly give them to understand that with the exception of a passage to Palermo or the nearest point of safety, they cannot be continued in Her Majesty's ship, as the "Bulldog" will be required for other service, neither can the expense

of their subsistence be thrown on Her Majesty's Government, except for the short period which they may be on board, without their having the power of providing what may be necessary for their own sustenance and comforts.

It will therefore be your business in conjunction with the Vice-Consul to require of the persons in authority at Marsala due protection to the British residents, and as soon as you can quit the place without subjecting those who remain to danger, you will return hither and report your proceedings.

I shall also be glad to have a report forwarded by post, or a special messenger, as soon after your arrival as may be practicable, of the state in which you find the place.

Given on board the "Hibernia," at Palermo, the 25th of March, 1848.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

To A. C. Key, Esq.,
Commander of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Bulldog."

P.S.—My order of the 10th January, 1848, for the reception of refugees is to be considered in force; but you will understand that it is to have reference to individuals of either party whose lives may be in actual danger.
W. P.

No. 155.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 12.)

My Lord,

Naples, April 4, 1848.

ON my return to Palermo from Messina whither I had accompanied Sir William Parker for a couple of days, I found that the Parliament had been engaged in the establishment of a Provisional Government, and this not precisely in the form it was intended to give it at the date of my last despatches.

Democratic views manifested themselves in the Chamber of Deputies more extensively than had been expected, and instead of a Regent a President was appointed. It is said that this is merely a provisional arrangement, but it is evidently intended by its authors as the foundation on which they are to build, though accepted by the Ministers and others in a different sense.

Had it been possible to present any one at all acceptable to the country who might have been called to the Throne at once, there would probably have been but little difficulty in obtaining his nomination as Sovereign of Sicily, and the monarchy might have been secured, which every day becomes more doubtful.

When I left Palermo it was the opinion of the leading members of the Government that it might still be practicable to confer the sovereignty of the island upon a younger son of the King of Naples, should His Majesty accede to such an arrangement, recognizing the disunion of the Crown of Sicily and Naples; and I shall to-day have an opportunity of conversing with the King on this subject.

Every day however and almost every hour reduces the chances of the acceptance of a Neapolitan Prince by the Sicilians, and even of the preservation of a Monarchical form of Government there, which all those at present at the head of affairs most earnestly desire to maintain.

Had I been perfectly sure that my views on the affairs of Sicily were in accordance with those of Her Majesty's Government I might have been able to exercise a pretty decisive influence on the form to be given to the Sicilian Government; but I did not feel that I should be justified in taking a course which might have embarrassed your Lordship, by encouraging expectations which were not to be realized.

I left Palermo on the 31st ultimo and landed here on the 2nd instant, and I propose to proceed to Rome the day after to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 12.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 4, 1848.

SINCE writing to your Lordship this morning I have been with the King, who received me with an expression of thanks for my endeavour to serve him in Sicily.

His Majesty said that he was quite prepared for the information I gave him of the determination of the Sicilians to maintain an entire independence of the Crown of Naples; and he inquired with some earnestness what form of Government I thought they would adopt.

I told him that I believed the question to be nicely balanced between Monarchy and Republic; but that when I came away I had received assurances which led me to think that one of his younger sons might be placed on the Throne of Sicily, provided no time was lost in taking the proper steps to procure his acceptance.

The King said that it was difficult to decide hastily on sending one of his children to Sicily in its present state; and as far as I could collect from his manner and language I do not imagine that he has any intention of availing himself of that opening.

I told him that I had nothing to urge on the subject, only feeling it my duty to give him all the information I possessed, and to tender my good offices should he require them in bringing about such an arrangement.

That the question involved rather a family than a political interest for him, except in so far as it might be of injurious effect at Naples that a Republican form of Government should now be declared at Palermo, which was extremely probable, although some leading persons there still thought that it might be possible to preserve the Monarchy by an invitation to some member of the House of Savoy, the Prince of Carignan being in their view.

I had much conversation with His Majesty on the general state of Italy, which my time does not enable me to report by this steamer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

P.S.—I ought to have mentioned in my former despatch that Don Ruggiero Settimo had been chosen President of the Government of Sicily. Copy and translation of the decrees relative to his nomination are herewith inclosed.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Decrees of the General Parliament instituting an Executive Authority in Sicily.

Proclamo.

IL General Parlamento di Sicilia nella seduta del giorno 26 corrente ha emesso i seguenti due decreti:

Primo Decreto.

Avendo il Comitato Generale deposto nelle mani del General Parlamento tutti i poteri che ha finora esercitati, e sentendo il Parlamento la necessità di provvedere provvisoriamente al più presto possibile all'ordinamento del potere esecutivo, che risponda alle attuali condizioni della Patria, decreta quanto segue:

Articolo 1°. Il Potere Esecutivo è conferito ad un Presidente del Governo del Regno di Sicilia, il quale lo eserciterà per organo di sei Ministri da lui eletti, e da lui amovibili.

Art. 2°. I sei Ministri saranno:

I. Degli Affari Esteri e del Commercio.

II. Della Guerra e Marina.

III. Delle Finanze.

IV. Del Culto e della Giustizia.

V. Dell' Interno e della Sicurezza Pubblica.

VI. Della Istruzione Pubblica e dei Lavori Pubblici.

Art. 3°. Il Presidente del Governo del Regno ed i Ministri sono responsabili dei loro atti.

Art. 4°. Nessun atto del Presidente del Governo del Regno sarà legale senza la firma del rispettivo Ministro.

Art. 5°. Le facoltà del Potere Esecutivo che sono nell' Art. 1°. attribuite al Presidente del Governo sono tutte quelle che stabilisce la Costituzione del 1812 colle seguenti modificazioni :

I. Il Presidente del Governo non ha facoltà di sanzionare i decreti del Parlamento avendo forza di legge, i decreti che stabiliranno di accordo le due Camere, ovvero le decisioni dei Comitati misti ai termini dei paragrafi 23 e 24 dell' atto di convocazione del General Parlamento. Avrà solamente il dovere di promulgarli e curarne la esecuzione.

II. Non ha facoltà nè di sciogliere, nè di aggiornare o prorogare il Parlamento, il quale provvederà alla materia con appositi decreti.

III. Non può intimar guerra nè conchiuder pace; può però fare qualunque trattato sotto la condizione della ratifica del Parlamento.

IV. Esercita intero il diritto di grazia per tutti i reati preveduti dalle leggi penali, purchè ogni atto sia motivato e reso pubblico; non può far grazia però per i reati d'interesse pubblico dalla Costituzione in ispecie eccettuati.

V. § 1, 3, 4, 7 del tit. 2, cap. 1, ed il § 5 del cap. 4, tit. 1, della Costituzione non sono applicabili, come neppure tutte le altre disposizioni che discordano dal presente decreto.

Art. 6. E in facoltà del Potere Esecutivo valersi dei Comitati Locali nelle funzioni da esso dipendenti secondo le circostanze particolari dei Comuni sino a che non sia altrimenti stabilito dal Parlamento.

Fatto e deliberato ad unanimità di voti nella seduta di Domenica li 26 Marzo, 1848.

Il Presidente della Camera dei Comuni,
(Firmato) MARCHESE DI TORREARSA.
Il Segretario,
GIUSEPPE LA FARINA.

La Camera dei Pari ad unanimità di voti aderisce al decreto.

Fatto e deliberato ad unanimità di voti nella seduta di Domenica sera li 26 Marzo, 1848.

Il Presidente della Camera dei Pari,
(Firmato) DUCA DI SERRADIFALCO.
Per il Segretario,
IL PRINCIPE DI BUTERA.

Secondo Decreto.

Avendo il Parlamento organizzato il Potere Esecutivo del Regno di Sicilia per decreto di oggi stesso.

La Camera dei Comuni a mozione del suo Presidente, e ad acclamazione unanime di tutti i suoi membri, decreta : E nominato Presidente del Governo del Regno di Sicilia, Ruggiero Settimo.

Fatto e deliberato ad unanimità di voti oggi li 26 Marzo, 1848.

Il Presidente della Camera dei Comuni,
(Firmato) MARCHESE DI TORREARSA.
Il Segretario,
GIUSEPPE LA FARINA.

La Camera dei Pari ad unanimità di voti aderisce al decreto.

Fatto e deliberato nella seduta della Camera dei Pari della sera del 26 Marzo, 1848.

Il Presidente della Camera dei Pari,
(Firmato) DUCA DI SERRADIFALCO.
Per il Segretario,
IL PRINCIPE DI BUTERA.

Il Presidente del Governo ai termini del § 1 dell' Art. 5, pubblica i soprainserti due decreti per la corrispondente esecuzione.

Palermo, 27 Marzo, 1848.

Il Presidente del Governo del Regno di Sicilia,
(Firmato) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri e del Commercio,
(Firmato) MARIANO STABILE.

(Translation.)

Proclamation.

THE General Parliament of Sicily, in its sitting of the 26th instant, has issued the two following decrees:

First Decree.

The General Committee having placed in the hands of the General Parliament all the powers which it has hitherto exercised, and the Parliament being anxious to provide provisionally and with the least possible delay for the organization of an executive authority, in accordance with the present condition of the country, decrees as follows:

Article 1. The Executive authority is conferred upon a President of the Government of the Kingdom of Sicily, who will exercise it by means of six Ministers, chosen and removable by him.

Art. 2. The six Ministers are to be:

I. Of Foreign Affairs and Commerce.

II. Of War and Marine.

III. Of Finance.

IV. Of Worship and Justice.

V. Of the Interior and Public Safety.

VI. Of Public Instruction and Public Works.

Art. 3. The President of the Government of the Kingdom and the Ministers are responsible for their acts.

Art. 4. No act of the President of the Government of the Kingdom shall be valid without the signature of the Minister whom it concerns.

Art. 5. The attributes of the Executive authority, vested by Art. 1 in the President of the Government, are those stipulated by the Constitution of 1812, with the following modifications:

I. The President of the Government has not the power of sanctioning such decrees of Parliament as have force of law, such decrees as may be agreed upon by the two Chambers, nor the decisions of the Mixed Committees instituted in pursuance of the 23rd and 24th paragraphs of the Act of Convocation of the General Parliament. It will be his duty only to promulgate them and to see that they are executed.

II. He has not the power either to dissolve, to adjourn, or to prorogue Parliament, which will make provision for this contingency by such decrees as it may think fit.

III. He can neither declare war nor make peace; but he may contract any treaty, subject to the ratification of Parliament.

IV. He possesses the full right of pardoning all crimes provided against by the penal laws, upon publicly assigning his reasons for each act; he cannot however pardon for offences affecting the public interest, and especially excepted by the Constitution.

V. Paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 7, under the head 2, chapter 1, and paragraph 5 of the 4th chapter, head 1, of the Constitution, are not applicable, nor indeed any other dispositions in contradiction with the present Decree.

Art. 6. It is open to the Executive to avail itself of the services of Local Committees in matters in which they are competent, according to

the particular circumstances of the localities, until such time as Parliament shall have otherwise decided.

Passed and affirmed by an unanimity of votes in the sitting of Sunday, March 26, 1848.

The President of the Chamber of Commons,
(Signed) MARQUIS DI TORREARSA.

The Secretary,
(Signed) JOSEPH LA FARINA.

The Chamber of Peers agrees unanimously to the Decree.

The President of the Chamber of Peers,
(Signed) DUKE OF SERRADIFALCO.

For the Secretary,
(Signed) THE PRINCE OF BUTERA.

Second Decree.

The Parliament having organized the Executive authority of the Kingdom of Sicily by a decree of this day, the Chamber of Commons, on the motion of its President and by the unanimous acclamation of all its members, decrees as follows :

Ruggiero Settimo is appointed President of the Government of the Kingdom of Sicily.

Passed and affirmed by an unanimity of votes in the sitting of Sunday, March 26, 1848.

The President of the Chamber of Commons,
(Signed) MARQUIS DI TORRE ARSA.

The Secretary,
(Signed) JOSEPH LA FARINA.

The Chamber of Peers unanimously agrees to the above Decree.

The President of the Chamber of Peers,
(Signed) DUKE OF SERRADIFALCO.

For the Secretary,
(Signed) THE PRINCE OF BUTERA.

The President of the Government, in conformity with the 1st paragraph of the 5th Article, publishes the two foregoing Decrees with a view to their being carried into effect.

Palermo, March 27, 1848.

(Signed) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.
The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commerce,
(Signed) MARIANO STABILE.

No. 157.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

Sir,

Admiralty, April 13, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated Naples the 4th instant, reporting the proceedings of the squadron under his orders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure in No. 157.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Hibernia," Naples, April 4, 1848.

I REQUEST you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's squadron, consisting of the ships named in the margin,* sailed from Palermo on the evening of the 31st ultimo and arrived in Naples Bay on the 2nd instant, when the Earl of Minto landed from the "Hibernia."

The number of foreign ships of war at this anchorage being limited by Treaty to four, the "Hibernia," "Trafalgar," "Superb," and "Sidon," are at present placed off Naples. The "Porcupine" is also temporarily here, but intended to proceed to Castellamare.

The "Rodney," "Vanguard," and "Terrible" are in Pozzuoli Bay.

The "Vengeance" at Castellamare, where she will be joined by the "Bulldog" on the arrival of the latter from Civit  Vecchia.

I have placed one of our large steamers with each division of Her Majesty's ships to facilitate a closer concentration at the shortest notice should it be necessary; but their Lordships may be assured if the squadrons meet, that the utmost courtesy and feeling will be inculcated on our part, and I do not apprehend any infraction of the most amicable relations.

I shall however confer with Lord Minto with regard to the propriety of our continuing on this coast in force with the intention of returning to Malta whenever it may appear advisable.

I am apprized of the arrival of the "Queen" there.

I beg you will further acquaint their Lordships that considering the good offices and exertions rendered by the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe to promote British interests in the late disturbances at Palermo I deemed it a proper courtesy to offer to his Lordship the accommodation of the "Bulldog" for the conveyance of himself and family to Civit  Vecchia, whither he appeared anxious to proceed on the departure of the squadron from Palermo.

No. 158.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 22.)

My Lord,

Naples, April 6, 1848.

I HAVE now ascertained that the King of Naples will neither consent to the transfer of the Crown of Sicily to a younger son nor enter into any other arrangement such as would be accepted in that country. All negotiation with Naples upon that subject may therefore be considered as now at an end.

Neither the King nor any of his Ministers affect to contemplate the reconquest of Sicily by a Neapolitan army as a thing to be attempted; but I understand that the King counts pretty confidently upon the continued refusal of England to recognize the disunion of the Crowns, and upon our assistance ultimately in restoring him to his rights.

I have said that we had undoubtedly proved our earnest desire to maintain the union of the Crowns, and that the want of success rested at the door of the Neapolitan Government; but that should the Sicilians have established their independence *de facto*, it must not be supposed that we should refuse to recognise a reality there, any more than we had done elsewhere, and were now likely to be called upon to do in many other quarters; or that we should not be disposed to cultivate the friendly relations which had long subsisted between England and Sicily.

* Hibernia, Trafalgar, Rodney, Vanguard, and Vengeance; steam-ships Sidon, Terrible.

It now remains to be seen what course the Parliament of Palermo may take. The Ministers have endeavoured to postpone all questions touching the sovereignty as long as possible, only urging the establishment of a Provisional Government to conduct the affairs of the country till a permanent form of Constitution may be adopted; but this state of suspense cannot be long maintained, and its continuance will tend to strengthen the Democratic party.

If the Monarchical principle is to prevail this can only be obtained by the immediate choice of a foreign Prince as their King, probably one of the House of Savoy, and until it is otherwise decided the friendly influence of England would have much weight in the determination of that question. It is however equally, perhaps more probable that the delay which has unavoidably occurred, and the difficulty of finding an Italian Prince recommended by his personal qualities, may lead to the adoption of a Republican form of Government.

The Sicilians generally feel that they must look for protection to one of the Great Powers. Their eyes are naturally turned towards England.

I had yesterday some conversation respecting Sicily with Count Ferretti, now Minister of Finance, when I strongly urged the expediency of at least a conciliatory policy on the part of this Government, which, although it might not be prepared finally to renounce its claims and to recognize the independence of Sicily, would, I said, do well to abandon the very hostile attitude it now maintained, unless they had any thoughts of reconquest, which he admitted was out of the question; and I recommended the evacuation of the citadel of Messina before it was wrested from them, in order that the Sicilians, finding they had no present attack to apprehend, might not be in haste to seek a foreign alliance. I told him that the Government of Sicily desired to join the Italian League and Confederation; that if they were rejected as an Italian State, they would necessarily drive it to some other connexion, and establish a French, a Russian or an English influence and position close to the Neapolitan shores.

Count Ferretti said he entirely agreed with me that the time had come when the independence of Sicily ought to be practically if not formally admitted; but he added that he was the only member of the Government prepared to take this or any other step in the affairs of Sicily, with regard to which no one had any fixed design.

It may be important that your Lordship's views with respect to the degree of interest to be manifested in the affairs of Sicily and the language to be held in communication with Sicilians should be made known to Lord Napier without much delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.

No. 159.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 24, 1848.

I HAVE learnt from the Earl of Minto's despatch of the 6th instant, that the King of Naples will neither consent to the transfer of the Crown of Sicily to a younger son nor enter into any other arrangement such as would be accepted in that country. Your Lordship will express to the Neapolitan Government the sincere regret of Her Majesty's Government at this decision of the King of Naples; and you will say that Her Majesty's Government are entirely at a loss to conjecture upon what grounds and in consequence of what expectations that decision has been taken. It is impossible to suppose that the King of Naples imagines that Sicily is of no value to him, because if that had been his opinion he would not have made such efforts to retain the possession of it. Equally difficult is it to suppose that the Neapolitan Government can fancy that it can by its own unassisted means be able to reconquer the island and reduce it by force again to become subject to the Crown of Naples.

Whence then does the Neapolitan Government expect that the military assistance is to come, by which Sicily is to be subjugated and to be restored to the King of Naples? Is it from Great Britain that such aid is looked for? If so, the Neapolitan Government cannot too soon or too distinctly be disabused of such an error. Under no conceivable circumstances would the British Government send a naval and military force to coerce the people of Sicily and to compel them against their will to become subjects of a Sovereign to whom they had refused to submit. Is it from Russia that such aid is reckoned upon? It is not for Her Majesty's Government to form an opinion as to the answer which the Russian Government would give to an application from Naples for aid for such a purpose, but it is not difficult to foresee that such succour from Russia to Naples would in all probability draw a similar succour from France to the Sicilians; and the geographical proximity of France compared with the more distant position of Russia would enable the French Government to send to the Sicilians prompter and larger reinforcements than Russia could furnish to the Government of Naples. It seems therefore to Her Majesty's Government that the Government of Naples having made a great mistake in not acceding to the conditions upon which the Sicilians were at one time willing to have remained subject to the Crown of Naples, are now committing a still greater and more irretrievable error by not accepting the offer of the people of Sicily so far to connect the island with the Kingdom of Naples, as to choose for their King a son of His Neapolitan Majesty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 160.

The Marquis of Normanby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 25.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 24, 1848.

M. LAMARTINE communicated to me this morning a telegraphic despatch from the French Consul at Palermo, by which it appears that the Sicilian Parliament on the evening of the 14th instant declared its independence and separation from Naples, and the exclusion of the present Royal Family from the Throne.

The Parliament have further resolved to select as King some Italian Prince, so soon as they have made certain reforms in their existing Constitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NORMANBY.

No. 161.

Prince Castelficala to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 27.)

Londra, 25 Aprile, 1848.

SUA Maestà il Rè delle Due Sicilie ha adottato una nuova bandiera, facendo fregiare e circondare l'attuale degli altri due colori Italiani, di tal che sarà di tre quadrati concentrici, il bianco nel mezzo con lo stemma Reale, rosso il secondo, verde l'estremo.

E' l Sottoscritto, Inviato Straordinario e Ministro Plenipotenziario della Maestà Sua presso Sua Maestà Britannica, si onora portar ciò a conoscenza di sua Eccellenza Lord Palmerston, Principal Segretario di Stato al Dipartimento degli Affari Esteri, perchè voglia compiacersi comunicarlo a chi si spetta.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Firmato) CASTELICALA.

(Translation.)

London, April 25, 1848.

HIS Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies has adopted a new flag, decorating and surrounding the present flag with the other two Italian colours, so that it will be formed of three concentric squares, the white one in the middle with the Royal arms, the second red, and the outside one green.

And the Undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Sicilian Majesty at the Court of Her Britannic Majesty, has the honour to give information of the above change to his Excellency Lord Palmerston, Principal Secretary of State in the Foreign Department, that the same may be communicated to those to whom it may appertain.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) CASTELCICALA.

No. 162.

The Marquis of Normanby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 27.)

(Extract.)

Paris, April 26, 1848.

IN transmitting to your Lordship Lord Minto's despatch from Lucca of the 18th instant, I may be permitted to add that my observation of all that is passing around me would induce me to confirm the view taken by Lord Minto of the importance of a prompt recognition on the part of Her Majesty's Government of the independence of Sicily, now that it has by the regular action of its ancient Constitution declared its adherence to a Monarchical form of Government.

One cannot conceal from oneself that the great struggle which is going on at this moment in Europe is between the principles of Republicanism and that of Constitutional Monarchy.

The profession of the present rulers of France, through official communications with Foreign Powers, is that the two countries should remain pacific spectators of this contest of political ideas, and of the sincerity of this declaration in the quarter from which it emanates I have no doubt; but there are unfortunately other influences actively at work. It may appear a trifling incident, but the same "Moniteur" of this morning which contains the very proper decree for the disarmament of the German bands on the frontier, mentions that in the national fête on the 4th of May the names of the revolutionary towns of Germany and of Italy are to be inserted, and three figures are to represent the French Republic hand in hand with Germany and Italy.

Upon the Sicilian Question I announced to your Lordship the friendly assurances given by M. Lamartine, but there is a party here who would rejoice at a Republic being proclaimed in Sicily beyond any other event, as the most unexpected triumph of their principles.

No. 163.

The Earl of Minto to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 27.)

My Lord,

Lucca, April 18, 1848.

I INCLOSE the copy of a letter which I addressed to M. Stabile before leaving Naples, informing him of the King's refusal to consent to the transfer of the Crown of Sicily to one of his sons, and a copy and translation of M. Stabile's answer which has reached me to-day by the messenger Gutch.

It is of the utmost importance not only to Sicily but to Naples and the whole of Italy, that this success of the Monarchical party should receive no check by a refusal to recognize the independence which the Sicilians have achieved for themselves, and by their exclusion from the Italian

League as a separate State; and on this subject I have every reason to believe that the opinion and advice of Her Majesty's Government may have much influence.

Hitherto the Sicilians have acted in strict conformity with their professions in taking arms for the recovery of their rightful Constitution, and I cannot but feel that they have strong claims on our sympathy and protection. The Constitution of 1812, though not formally guaranteed by England, was undoubtedly imposed upon Sicily by British authority backed by a British army then virtually in possession of the island. As long as there remained a prospect of maintaining the union of the Crowns which had been contemplated in the Treaty of Vienna, its political importance in the then state of Italy was sufficient to engage us in support of that engagement.

But this prospect no longer exists, and the union of the Crowns of the Two Sicilies will no longer be of the same importance in an Italian Confederation. The Sicilians tell us that they were willing to submit to a continued union of the Crowns, however distasteful to them, but that when the King of Naples refuses their conditions, they fall back upon the rights secured to them by the Constitution of 1812, which entitles them to seek their Sovereign elsewhere, and they ask us to recognize those rights which we practically gave them. I confess it appears to me difficult to deny the justice of this demand, and I believe that good policy no less than justice may recommend it to us; for notwithstanding the vastly greater extent and population of the Kingdom of Naples, the character of the people is so different as perhaps to render Sicily the more important State of the two, and certainly I think it that with which our relations are likely to be the most advantageous.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 163.

The Earl of Minto to M. Stabile.

Sir,

Naples, April 6, 1848.

I PROMISED to acquaint you with the result of my communications with the King on the subject of your affairs, which I regret to say is far from favourable. His Majesty gave me no encouragement to expect that he would consent to let the Crown of Sicily devolve upon one of his younger sons; nor can I find that his Ministers are disposed to advise a recognition of the independence of Sicily.

Under these circumstances I can only express an earnest hope that you may yet escape the calamity of a Republican form of Government.

I have not heard from England since my return to Naples, but Lord Napier will probably soon receive information of the views of the British Government on the various points submitted to it in my correspondence from Palermo.

I shall proceed to Rome to-morrow where I intend to remain only three or four days, and I expect to reach Turin about the 24th or 25th of this month where I shall also pass a few days. My address there, should you desire to write to me, will be at the Honourable Ralph Abercromby's, British Legation.

I beg you to be assured that I shall always retain a grateful recollection of the courtesy and kindness of my reception at Palermo and a warm interest in the prosperity of your most interesting country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 163.

M. Stabile to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Palermo, 14 Aprile, 1848.

HO avuto l'onore di ricevere avantieri la lettera che vostra Eccellenza mi dirigeva da Napoli il giorno 6 corrente, e le rendo infinite grazie per l'interesse che costantemente prende agli affari della Sicilia. Io ho piena fiducia che mercè i valevolissimi uffiej dell' Eccellenza vostra il Governo Britannico sarà il primo a riconoscere la Sicilia indipendente e con un Rè proprio. Il rifiuto del Rè di Napoli a cedere la Corona di Sicilia ad uno dei suoi figli non mi ha punto sorpreso, e tanto meglio per noi. I suoi Ministri non gli hanno mai dato un consiglio a proposito, e questo ha molto contribuito alla buona riuscita dei nostri affari. Vengo ora a far noti all' Eccellenza vostra gli avvenimenti di jeri, i quali io mi auguro che tendono potentemente alla consolidazione dei risultati della nostra rivoluzione.

E da premettere che la incertezza di tutti sulla nostra forma futura di Governo, e su' nostri rapporti futuri col Rè di Napoli, teneva gli animi di tutti sospesi; il Parlamento non progrediva risolutamente; gl'intrighi e le diffidenze prendevano radice e si estendevano rapidamente; persone che io suppongo spedite quì espressamente dal Rè di Napoli avean messo in sospetto presso talune classi e il Governo provvisorio e tutto il Parlamento, e già si cominciava a parlare di abatter l'uno e l'altro; di me correva la voce che io volessi vender la Sicilia all' Inghilterra, e che so, quante altre simili calunnie. Insomma io e tutti i buoni cominciavano a temere che la nostra rivoluzione venisse da un momento all' altro a perdere quel carattere imponente di unanimità e di concordia che sinora è stato la nostra forza. Sin quì per la parte interna. In quanto all' esterno poi ecco il mio concetto. Vostra Eccellenza non ignora le piccole spedizioni da Napoli per la Lombardia e i preparativi di quel Governo per mandarvi anche 10 mila uomini di truppe sotto il comando di Pepe. Non ignora ugualmente la elezione fatta dal Rè di Napoli di alquanti Commissarj per andare a trattare della Lega Italiana. Tutte queste determinazioni del Rè di Napoli hanno anche secondo me lo scopo di mettersi nelle buone grazie degli altri Sovrani Italiani, e servirsi anche dell' accordo coi medesimi per respingere i nostri diritti e le nostre pretese. In questo stato di cose io credei del mio dovere di fare jeri una dichiarazione alla Camera de' Comuni premettendo i fatti anzidetti, e concludendo essere urgente che da noi pur si mandassero Commissarj speciali per trattare della Lega Italiana, e per contrastare alle mene ed agli intrighi de' Commissarj Napolitani, ma che le loro voci non sarebbero mai intese ne rispettate dagli altri Principi Italiani sino a che non potessero presentarsi come rappresentanti un paese la cui forma politica il cui pensiero non fossero stati già nettamente pronunziati. La mia mozione fu molto applaudita, e siccome io aveva prima della seduta tenuto una riunione de' membri più influenti della Camera coi quali già mi era posto di accordo, così varj membri pronunziarono de' discorsi secondando tutti il mio pensiero, riconoscendo l'urgenza di costituirci, e protestando tutti che la dichiarazione di una Repubblica sarebbe stato un atto impolitico ed intempestivo. Quindi ad una unanimità vera e di cuore si votò fra gli applausi e l'entusiasmo di un popolo affollato nelle ringhiere e nelle strade che avvicinarono il Parlamento, la decadenza dal Trono di Sicilia di Ferdinando Borbone e della sua dinastia, e che la Sicilia intende reggersi a Monarchia Costituzionale, scegliendo a sedere sul Trono un Principe Italiano, riserbandosi la nomina della persona tosto che sarà compito lo Statuto Costituzionale, al quale una Commissione mista delle due Camere sta lavorando. La Camera de' Pari sapendo che i Comuni si occupavano di questo affare, si radunò spontaneamente verso la sera. Una Commissione de' Comuni portò il messaggio col progetto del Decreto alla Camera de' Pari, e dopo una breve discussione fù all' unanimità e con lo stesso entusiasmo approvato dalla Camera de' Pari; sicchè quel voto è una legge del regno. L'effetto di quel decreto è stato magico. Non le dico della spontanea illuminazione di tutta la

città, della folla esultante in tutte le strade, ma quel ch'è più serio il Governo ha acquistato una gran forza una grande influenza sul popolo e sul Parlamento; il pericolo di una Repubblica è assolutamente distrutto; i Principi Italiani saranno dal canto nostro avendo in vista questo bel paese; i nostri Commissarj si presenteranno come rappresentanti di un popolo saggio che non v'è alle esagerazioni, gli animi di tutti in Sicilia non saranno più vaganti nell'incerto; e se la recognizione dalla Gran Bretagna coronerà quest'opera, la felicità della Sicilia è assicurata. Si parla di far cadere la scelta sopra un figlio del Granduca di Toscana, giacchè l'estensione della forza del Piemonte fa concepir qualche timore, ma questo è un punto al quale si verrà più tardi. Prego dunque ed impegno vivamente l'Eccellenza vostra perchè voglia proseguire a difendere ed assistere la causa nostra con quella bontà e lealtà che tanto lo onorano, e della quale avendo io avuto personalmente tante prove non posso che professare una profonda stima e venerazione per l'Eccellenza vostra.

La Camera de' Pari rigettò il progetto de' Comuni per togliere il voto ai Ministri; e jeri all'unanimità e con immensi applausi ci fu dato il voto per la quistione della decadenza.

Prego vostra Eccellenza, &c.

(Firmato)

MARIANO STABILE.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Palermo, April 14, 1848.

I HAD the honour the day before yesterday to receive the letter which your Excellency addressed to me from Naples on the 6th instant, and I offer you my best thanks for the interest you continue to take in the affairs of Sicily. I am fully persuaded that owing to the good offices of your Excellency the British Government will be the first to recognize the independence of Sicily under her own King.

The refusal of the King of Naples to cede the Crown of Sicily to one of his sons has occasioned me no surprise, and is a great gain for us. His Ministers have never yet given him seasonable advice, and this has greatly contributed to the successful issue of our affairs. I am now about to acquaint your Excellency with the events of yesterday, which will I trust tend most effectually to consolidate the results of our Revolution.

It is to be premised that the general uncertainty as to the future form of our Government, and as to our future relations with the King of Naples, retained all minds in suspense; Parliament did not proceed with energy; intrigue and distrust were taking root and were rapidly spreading; persons whom I believe to have been sent here on purpose by the King of Naples had thrown suspicion in certain classes upon the Provisional Government and upon the entire Parliament, and it was even proposed to overset the one and the other. Of me it was said that I was desirous of selling Sicily to England, besides other calumnies. In short I and all the well-disposed began to fear that our Revolution was in danger at any moment of losing that character of unanimity and concord which has hitherto formed our strength.

Thus much for home affairs. With respect to foreign affairs however these are my views. Your Excellency is not unaware of the trifling expeditions dispatched from Naples to Lombardy, and the preparatives made by that Government for dispatching thither 10,000 troops under the command of Pepe. You are likewise acquainted with the selection by the King of Naples of commissioners to proceed to negotiate the Italian League. All these determinations have in my opinion been come to with a view to place himself on a good footing with the other Italian Sovereigns, and even to make use of his understanding with them to reject our rights and our pretensions. In this state of things I thought it my duty to make a declaration yesterday to the Chamber of Commons, premising the facts above mentioned, and concluding with the proposal that it was essential that we also should send special commissioners to treat respecting the Italian League, and to counteract the proceedings and intrigues of the Neapolitan Commissioners; but stating that they would

never be listened to nor respected by the other Italian Princes until such time as they were able to appear as the representatives of a country whose political conformation and intentions had been distinctly enunciated. My motion was much applauded; and as I had before the sitting held a meeting of the most influential Members of the Chamber, with whom I had already come to an understanding, several members delivered addresses, all seconding my views, acknowledging the necessity of constituting ourselves, and all protesting that the declaration of a Republic would have been an impolitic and unseasonable act.

We therefore proceeded with real and hearty unanimity to vote amidst the applause and enthusiasm of the populace, which had crowded into the precincts and streets adjoining the Parliament, the deposition from the Throne of Sicily of Ferdinand Bourbon and of his dynasty, and that Sicily intended to constitute herself into a Constitutional Monarchy, electing to the Throne an Italian Prince, and deferring the nomination of that personage until the completion of the Constitutional Statute, upon which a mixed Commission of the two Chambers was now engaged. The Chamber of Peers having learnt that the Chamber of Commons was occupied with this affair, assembled spontaneously towards evening. A Commission of the Commons carried the message with a draft of the Decree to the Chamber of Peers, and after a short discussion it was unanimously and with equal enthusiasm approved of by the Chamber of Peers; so that this vote is now a law of the kingdom.

The effect of this decree was quite magical; not to speak of the spontaneous illumination of the whole city, of the exulting crowd filling all the streets, but of what is more serious, viz., the acquisition by Government of greater force and influence over the people and the Parliament; the danger of a Republic is absolutely removed; Italian Princes not unmindful of this fine country will be on our side; our Commissioners will appear as the representatives of a prudent people not running into exaggeration; the public mind in Sicily will no longer wander in uncertainty; and if the recognition by Great Britain should crown this work, the happiness of Sicily would be assured. It is proposed that our choice should fall upon a son of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, since the augmentation of the power of Piedmont has given rise to some alarm; but this is a point to which we shall recur hereafter. I therefore pray and beseech your Excellency most earnestly to continue to defend and assist our cause with that goodness and loyalty which do you so much honour, and of which having personally had so many proofs I cannot refrain from expressing my profound veneration for your Excellency.

The Chamber of Peers rejected the proposed Bill of the Commons taking from Ministers the right of voting, and we yesterday unanimously and with great applause obtained the vote upon the question of deposition.

I pray your Excellency, &c.

(Signed)

MARIANO STABILE.

No. 164.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 27.)

My Lord,

Naples, April 15, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have this morning received from Mr. Goodwin, announcing the resolution embraced by the Parliament of Sicily to declare their independence of the Crown of Naples and choose an Italian Prince for their Sovereign.

I have communicated an extract of this report under date of the 14th instant to Marquis Dragonetti, observing to his Excellency that I did so simply for the information of the Neapolitan Government an unofficially, for without your Lordship's orders it will be my object to withdraw as much as possible from all appearance of mediation or active interest in the affairs of Sicily.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 164.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, April 6, 1848.

THE debates in Parliament from the 25th March to the 3rd April have continued without intermission to form the chief subject of public conversation. Those in the Commons have been more interesting than those in the Peers. Among the former the debate on the questions—1st. Whether a Deputy by becoming a Minister loses his seat in Parliament; 2nd. Whether a Minister must be re-elected to remain a Deputy; and 3rd. Whether a Minister being a Deputy can vote in Parliament; has excited much interest, both on its own account and on that of the consequences with which it has been fraught. The first question was decided in the negative, 91 against 66. The second in the affirmative, *nem. dis.* And the third in the negative by a small majority.

The decision of the last led to the resignation of the Ministers Stabile, Amari, and Scordia, and of the Director Casimiro Pisani, which were ostensibly accepted by the President and notified to the Chambers. The Ministers will however continue to hold office until persons be named to succeed them, and at present no successors are even privately mentioned.

The restoration of the Porto Franco of Messina to its former state from 1784 to 1825 has been carried by acclamation. All the city and suburbs are to be deemed a mass of warehouses in which foreign goods may be stored and re-exported free of duty. Goods carried out of the precincts are to be subject to customs duty generally; but goods sold for consumption within the precincts are to be subject to civic duty only.

The civil administration is to be revised and remodelled. The task of reporting on the subject is entrusted to a committee of which Ferrara is the chairman. The report will probably recommend the adoption of the Municipal Law of England and the suppression of the present system of indemnities.

In finances the land and house tax will be levied on the footing previous to 1833, when the now suspended rectification came into being. The multure or duty on the grinding of wheat, and amounting to 4s. 6d. and 3s. 2d. per quarter in the larger and smaller towns respectively, is to be reduced one-half in both cases.

The customs tariff will remain unaltered, except as to books and weapons, which will be admitted duty free. Part of the contribution to Naples amounting to 23,000 ounces, and destined to pay the interest of the public debt and support the civil list, is suspended.

During the last week great alarm has prevailed in Palermo on account of the robberies which have been daily committed in the town and the neighbourhood. Persons going out at night or even in the dusk have been stopped by armed men and plundered on the spot, whilst others have been carried into the country and compelled to pay a ransom to the robbers. Calvi, the Minister of Internal Security, having been summoned by the Commons, attributed the disorders concerning which he was questioned, to the presence of 10,000 or 12,000 convicts, who having been released from the galleys by the events of the Revolution, had been thrown into the bosom of Sicilian society. A National Guard had indeed been formed, but unhappily the scarcity of muskets had prevented that force from becoming effective, and a Municipal Guard that had been subsequently organized had not answered its purpose of supplying a place of a regular police. This new force, composed in some measure of outcasts from society, had become the accomplices rather than the enemies of public offenders. So long as arms are scarce, the Government will be powerless. A supply of 14,000 muskets had been ordered from France, the arrival of which is looked for shortly, when the National Guard will be fully and efficiently armed.

In Marsala anarchy and confusion, banished by the visit of the "Bulldog," have reappeared since her departure. The town is in the hands of an armed mob, the threats of which have induced the British

residents to apply for the presence of a British man-of-war to protect their lives and property.

A powerful opposition to Ministers, of which some advocates and ecclesiastics are the leaders, is forming in the Commons. The object of this party is by no means clear, but personal enmity to Signors Stabile and Settimo appears to be its main spring.

The existence of the Chamber of Peers is threatened with destruction at the hands of some factious priests who incensed at rejection by the Chamber of Peers, to whom they were proposed as new members by the Chamber of Commons, have been preaching up the abolition of the Upper Chamber as necessary for the public weal. The good sense of the Commons will it is hoped defeat their machinations and preserve the integrity of the Peerage.

Among the different plans that have been proposed for settling the public affairs that of appointing the King's second son *Alter Ego* or Viceroy, and Don Ruggiero Settimo Regent during the minority, appears to be the most feasible. The measure if approved must be taken in hand at once. Any long delay during which a fresh invasion might take place would be fatal to its object. The Republican spirit fostered by indulgence is growing every day fiercer and fiercer.

About the middle of February the General Committee, urged by the importunity of the squadrons, appointed about forty of their chiefs to be colonels, majors, and captains of a decreed force of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, the raising of which was regarded as feasible. The plan having failed in a great degree, some of the new made officers have sent in their resignation, to the public satisfaction. Grateful as are the Sicilians for the services of these patriots the public is convinced against its will that they were not duly qualified for the higher commands of the national army.

12th April.—Peace and good order have been restored at Marsala by a commissioner from Trapani armed with extraordinary powers, who has sent the ringleader of the mob to Palermo to answer for his conduct to the Provisional Government, from whom the above commissioner received his authority.

13th April.—The aspect of affairs has latterly brightened; abductions and robberies have ceased to be perpetrated, and public confidence has returned with reviving order. The prohibition to carry arms, which was becoming a dead letter, has been put in full force by the Government through the National and Municipal Guards.

The projected loan of £250,000, the solicitations for which addressed to Rothschild and others have failed, is now to be raised by certificates of not less than £5 each bearing interest at 5 per cent. and having a bonus of 2 per cent. for the first £50,000 subscribed before the 31st of May.

14th April.—Yesterday morning news having arrived that the King persisted in his refusal to yield any further, and that His Majesty had dispatched Envoys to the Italian Congress to prejudice the cause of Sicily, it was resolved at a meeting of about twenty members of the Commons assembled at the President's, that Ministers should move that evening for the dethronement of the King and his dynasty, for the establishment of a Constitutional Government, and for the raising to the Throne of an Italian Prince, after Sicily should have reformed her Statute. The motion was accordingly made and was carried unanimously, the Ministers voting at their own desire by special permission. The vote was no sooner made known to the Peers than it received their full concurrence, and on the return of the messenger it was resolved that the vote should be signed by every member before the House broke up: a resolution which was carried into immediate effect amidst thunders of applause.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 165.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 4.)

My Lord,

Naples, April 20, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy and translation of a protest published by the King of Naples against the act of the Parliament of Sicily of the 13th instant, by which His Majesty and the House of Bourbon were declared to have forfeited the Throne of that kingdom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Protest of the King of Naples against the Resolution of the Sicilian Parliament declaring His Majesty to have forfeited the Throne of Sicily.

Ferdinand II, &c.

VISTO il nostro atto solenne di Protesta del dì 22° di Marzo, 1848, col quale dichiarammo illegale, irrito, e nullo, qualunque atto contrario agli Statuti fondamentali ed alla Costituzione della Monarchia;

Essendo venuta a nostra notizia la deliberazione presa in Palermo il dì 13 di Aprile corrente, colla quale si sconoscono non solo i sacri diritti inerenti alla nostra persona e alla nostra Real Famiglia, ma si viola la unità ed integrità della monarchia e la Costituzione da noi giurata;

Udito l'unanime parere del nostro Consiglio de' Ministri;

Dichiarammo di protestare e col presente solennemente protestiamo contro l'atto deliberativo di Palermo del dì 13 di Aprile, 1848, lesivo de' sacri dritti della nostra Real Persona e Dinastia, e alla unità ed integrità della monarchia, dichiarandolo illegale, irrito e nullo e di niun valore.

Questo atto solenne, sottoscritto da noi, riconosciuto dal nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato di Grazia e Giustizia, munito del nostro Gran Sigillo, e contrassegnato dal nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato, Presidente del Consiglio de' Ministri, sarà registrato e depositato nell' archivio della Presidenza del sudette Consiglio.

Napoli, 18 Aprile, 1848. (Firmato) FERDINANDO.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato di
Grazia e Giustizia,
(Firmato) GIOVANNI VIGNALE.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato, Presidente
del Consiglio de' Ministri,
(Firmato) CARLO TROJA.

(Translation.)

Ferdinand II, &c.

HAVING taken into consideration our solemn act of Protest of March 22, 1848, by which we declared any act contrary to the fundamental Statutes and the Constitution of the monarchy to be illegal, informal, and null;

And whereas the Resolutions passed at Palermo on the 13th instant have come to our knowledge, by which not only the sacred rights inherent in our Person and in our Royal Family are set aside, but also the unity and integrity of the monarchy is violated and the Constitution sworn to by us;

Having heard the unanimous opinions of the Council of Ministers;

We declare that We protest and hereby solemnly do protest against the deliberative act which was passed at Palermo on the 13th instant,

injurious to the sacred rights of our Royal Person and Dynasty and to the unity and integrity of the monarchy, declaring the same to be illegal, informal and null, and of no value.

This solemn Act, signed by us, acknowledged by our Minister Secretary of State of Grace and Justice, furnished with our Great Seal, and countersigned by our Minister Secretary of State, President of the Council of Ministers, shall be registered and deposited in the archives of the office of the President of the Council.

Naples, April 18, 1848. (Signed) FERDINAND.

The Minister Secretary of State of
Grace and Justice,

(Signed) GIOVANNI VIGNALI.

The Minister Secretary of State, President
of the Council of Ministers,
(Signed) CARLO TROJA.

No. 166.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 6.)

My Lord,

Naples, April 22, 1848.

IN conformity with the tenor of your Lordship's instructions, I have addressed the inclosed despatch to Mr. Barker, Her Majesty's Consul at Messina, requesting him to use due precautions in preparing an estimate of the losses incurred by British subjects through the conflagration of the bonding warehouses at that city, and I have at the same time stated to the Neapolitan Government the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on this subject, in the accompanying note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 166.

Lord Napier to Consul Barker.

Sir,

Naples, April 18, 1848.

I HAVE to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government have empowered this Mission to demand compensation from the Government of His Sicilian Majesty for the losses incurred by British subjects through the bombardment of the Porto Franco of Messina.

The estimate of damages submitted to Her Majesty's Legation in your despatch of March 28th does not appear sufficiently detailed or discriminated to be made the basis of an official application to the Neapolitan Government, and in framing a more accurate and particular schedule of such claims you will I think do well to observe the following course.

In conformity with the desire expressed by you in your despatch of the 31st ultimo, you are authorized to appoint three British merchants or other judicious persons not interested in the question to constitute with your son, Mr. Robert Barker and Captain Codrington, should the latter benevolently lend his assistance, a Commission for the scrutiny of the accounts presented.

You will be careful to admit at present no claims for the loss of property not contained in the Porto Franco.

You will oblige me by committing the particulars of each case to a separate sheet for the convenience of Her Majesty's Legation, and by numbering each as an "Inclosure" in the despatch which you will address to Her Majesty's Legation on the occasion, and in which you will have the goodness to express your approval or the contrary of the judgment passed by the Commission; for though it may be desirable that you should not make yourself too conspicuous and responsible in the eyes of the respective

claimants who might find fault with your decision, you must be aware that you are in reality the official channel of such demands and are bound to deliver an opinion on them to Her Majesty's Legation on being requested so to do, and that any Commission such as has been indicated is for your assistance and is not intended to supersede you entirely in the exercise of your official functions which certainly extend to this transaction.

I am, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 166.

Lord Napier to the Marquis Dragonetti.

Naples, April 22, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to acquaint his Excellency Marquis Dragonetti, &c., that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty having consulted the Law Officers of the British Crown as to the right to demand compensation from the Government of His Sicilian Majesty for losses incurred by British subjects through the bombardment of the Porto Franco of Messina, the Law Officers above mentioned have decided that the said Porto Franco of Messina, in which the property of British subjects was deposited, having been intentionally and wantonly set on fire by a bombardment directed upon it by the Neapolitan forces in the citadel in the absence of all provocation which could justify such a measure, the Government of Her Britannic Majesty is entitled to demand compensation for the amount of British merchandize thus unnecessarily destroyed.

The Undersigned has consequently been instructed to cause an estimate to be compiled of the losses incurred by Her Britannic Majesty's subjects, which as soon as it shall be completed will be brought under the consideration of his Excellency Marquis Dragonetti.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 167.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 6.)

(Extract.)

Naples, April 24, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo of the 17th, which recites the measures which the Provisional Government have taken for the defence of Sicily against external aggression and states the intention of the Parliament to offer the Crown of that kingdom to a Prince of the House of Savoy.

Mr. Goodwin has not I believe mentioned that the Sicilians have sent a body of volunteers to join the Italian forces in Lombardy.

The Provisional Government of Sicily have manifested a remarkable and praiseworthy solicitude in the recognition of pecuniary claims on the Treasury of that country, and continue to pay the pensions allotted to former public servants even when residing at Naples and of opinions opposed to the predominant sentiments.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, April 17, 1848.

THE dethronement of the King by the vote of the Parliament on the 13th instant was no sooner known than public joy found vent in deafening shouts, musical performances, and a general illumination. Early next morning all the statues of the Bourbons were thrown down and demolished, whilst the effigy of Charles II of Spain remained untouched and respected.

The Duke of Genoa is understood to be the personage to whom the Crown of Sicily is destined to be offered.

Yesterday in an extraordinary sitting the Commons authorized the Minister of War to purchase with all speed four English war-steamers of 400 horse-power each, for the defence of the coast against the imminent danger of Neapolitan invasion.

The messengers sent to France for the purchase of muskets and sabres having found on their arrival that the exportation of arms was prohibited, have proceeded to England, where it is probable that they have by this time executed their commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 168.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. R. Abercromby.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1848.

HER Majesty's Consul at Palermo having reported that it is understood that the Crown of Sicily is to be offered to the Duke of Genoa, I have to instruct you that if it should come to your knowledge that such an offer has been made, you will state to the Sardinian Government that it is of course for the Duke of Genoa to determine whether it will or will not suit him to accept this flattering offer, but that it might be satisfactory to him to know that if he should to do so he would at the proper time, and when he was in possession of the Sicilian Throne, be acknowledged by Her Majesty.

The British Government was most anxious for many reasons that the connexion between Sicily and the Crown of Naples should be maintained; they made through Her Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Agents at Naples and in Sicily every effort which was within their competence to secure that result; and they would now view with the greatest satisfaction any reconciliation by which that connexion might be restored. But circumstances beyond their controul seem to have severed the two countries, and there appears now to be no probability of reuniting them except by the entire conquest and subjugation of Sicily; such conquest and subjugation however the King of Naples is obviously unable to accomplish by his own means, and no other Power would undertake to effect it for him. The next best arrangement for the general interests of Europe would be that the Sicilians should choose some distinguished Italian Prince to be their Sovereign, and that they should thus continue to form part of the political system of Italy.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 169.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 24th instant, inclosing a despatch from Mr. Goodwin on the subject of the proposed offer of the Crown of Sicily to the Duke of Genoa, I transmit to you, for your information copy of an instruction* on that subject which I have addressed to His Majesty's Minister at the Court of Turin.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 170.

Viscount Palmerston to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 11, 1848.

LORD NAPIER has forwarded to me a copy of the letter which you addressed to his Lordship on the subject of the proposed offer of the of Sicily to the Duke of Genoa; and I transmit to you, confidentially, for your information and guidance, the copy of a despatch* which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Envoy at Turin on this question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 171.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 14.)

(Extract.)

Naples, May 2, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, herewith, a copy and translation of a decree issued by the Neapolitan Government on the 27th of April, ordering the levy of a forced loan upon the several classes of merchants, manufacturers, shopkeepers, public functionaries, and other classes of the community.

This imposition is not oppressive in its amount or conditions, and it is most comprehensive in its application; but it has become a matter of question whether under the 3rd Article of the Commercial Convention of 1845, between Great Britain and Naples, such a forced loan can be exacted from Her Majesty's subjects.

After due reflection, I have not felt myself justified in peremptorily resisting the demand of this contribution from Her Majesty's subjects, but I have advised them in paying the amount assessed on them, should it be insisted on, to do so under a "reserve," of which I have the honour to transmit a copy, and I have addressed the accompanying note to the Neapolitan Government, urging them to delay the enforcement of the loan on Her Majesty's subjects until I be put in possession of your Lordship's instructions.

* See No. 168.

Inclosure 1 ia No. 171.

Decree of the Neapolitan Government for levying a forced Loan.

VEDUTO l'Art. LXXXVIII della Costituzione, così scritto:

“Lo stato discusso del 1847 resterà in vigore per tutto l'anno 1848, e con esso rimarranno provvisoriamente in vigore le antiche facoltà del Governo, per provvedere con espedienti straordinarii a' complicati ed urgentissimi bisogni dello Stato.”

Veduto il rapporto a noi fatto dal Ministro Segretario di Stato delle Finanze;

Posto che il deficit che potrebbe incontrarsi per bilanciare l'esercizio del corrente anno, può andare ripianato e dalla economia sugli stati discussi dei Ministeri, e dalle nuove risorse che la legislatura può creare mentre che altronde dovesi fin da ora provvedere a spese volte al mantenimento dello Stato e della comune causa Italiana, delle quali il rapporto del detto Ministro chiarisce l'importanza e la necessità;

Posto che le facoltà a noi serbate dal mentovato Art. LXXXVIII della Costituzione sono per essere assai parcamente e poco gravosamente usate, secondo la proposta che ci si è fatta, volgendosi non ad imposte nè a severe percezioni, ma in quella vce alla generosità ed all' interesse nazionale con nessun danno dell' interesse privato;

Posto da ultimo che la nuova rendita, che si è per creare, è da meno di quella, che ammortizzata per mercè de' sorteggi, elevava già a maggior somma il debito pubblico;

Sulla proposizione del Ministro Segretario di Stato delle Finanze;

Udito il Consiglio de' Ministri;

Abbiamo stabilito di decretare e decretiamo quanto siegue:—

I. Sarà fatto un prestito alla Tesoreria Generale di Napoli fino alla concorrenza di tre milioni di ducati.

II. Il prestito medesimo sarà forzoso per la somma di due milioni; sarà volontario e spontaneo per la somma dell' altro milione.

III. Ai prestatori sarà fatta la restituzione de' loro capitali per tutto il dì 31 Dicembre, 1850: non sarà interdetta la restituzione anticipata di tutti o parte dei tre milioni. Durante la dilazione sarà pagato l'interesse del 5 per 100 annuo nelle scadenze stesse dei semestri della rendita iscritta sul Gran Libro del Debito Pubblico.

Il godimento di questo interesse comincerà dal primo Luglio, 1848, sicchè la prima rata scadrà col secondo semestre del 1848, e l'ultima col secondo semestre del 1850.

IV. Per sicurtà del rimborso del capitale e del pagamento dell' interesse è creata una rendita annua di due. 100 mila al 5 per 100 iscritta nel Gran Libro del Debito Pubblico consolidato a favore della Tesoreria Generale col godimento dal primo Luglio, 1848; la quale, riunita a quella già esistente a favore della Tesoreria medesima, sarà trasferita in altrettante partite ai prestatori, al cento per ogni ducati 5 di rendita.

V. Tosto che la rendita sarà trasferita ai prestatori sarà immobilizzata e fatta inalienabile, e non trasferibile fino al 31 Dicembre, 1850: nel qual tempo, laddove il prestito non sia stato ancora rimborsato, la rendita trasferita come sopra rimarrà sciolta e libera da ogni vincolo di non trasferibilità e d'inalienabilità, di pieno dritto, senz' altra solennità, e senza bisogno di alcuna disposizione del Ministero delle Finanze.

Negli estratti della rendita suddetta dopo il trasferimento saranno scritte le seguenti parole: Inalienabile e non trasferibile fino al dì 31 Dicembre, 1850.

VI. La Tesoreria rimborserà i prestatori della differenza, in meno, che risulti dal coacervo de' prezzi di tutto il mese di Dicembre, 1850, ed il capitale prestato. Il montare della differenza siffatta sarà pagato non più tardi del 31 Dicembre, 1852, pagandosi intanto sulla somma della differenza l'interesse annuo del 5 per 100 nelle stesse scadenze semestrali, fine Giugno e fine Dicembre.

VII. Ciascun prestatore spontaneo potrà versare la somma che a lui piacerà, ma non minore di ducati venti, in Napoli nella Tesoreria

Generale, e nelle provincie in mano dei Ricevitori-Generali e Distrettuali; in Napoli i versamenti potranno ancora esser fatti in mano dei Perceptorii ed Esattori Comunali.

Potrà farsi il versamento in più rate; la minima rata non sarà minore della quarta parte. Per ogni somma non minore di ducati venti già interamente versata il prestatore otterrà un certificato, in vista del quale il Direttore-Generale del Gran Libro, a cui sarà esibito, farà seguire il trasferimento e l'immobilizzazione a favore di chiunque gli sarà indicato, e darà quindi l'estratto di rendita iscritta all'esibitore del certificato.

Laddove l'ultima rata non sia versata per tutto il dì 30 Maggio, 1848, le somme versate prima non daranno alcun diritto di rimborso, e cederanno in pro della Tesoreria-Generale, tenendosi come donativo fatto dai prestatori a beneficio dello Stato.

VIII. I nomi dei prestatori volontariii pubblicati nel "Giornale Costituzionale" saranno raccomandati alla gratitudine ed all'amore della nazione riconoscente.

IX. Il prestito forzoso sarà fatto dai seguenti ordini di persone, e colle regole e proporzioni seguenti.

I nomi di coloro, che non adempiranno al prestito forzoso, saranno pubblicati nel "Giornale Costituzionale."

X. Sono obbligati al prestito:—

1. Tutti i commercianti, fabbricanti, manifatturieri, detaglieri, agenti di cambio e sensali della città e provincia di Napoli.

I commercianti, fabbricanti, manifatturieri e sensali delle altre provincie, dove saranno esclusi i minuti bottegghieri e detaglieri.

Dagli uni e dagli altri sarà prestata la somma di ducati 700,000; quattrocentottantamila per la città e provincia di Napoli, e duecentotrentamila per tutte le altre provincie, che sarà fra queste partita del Regolamento, di cui si parla nell'Articolo XXV.

2. I soldi, i soprassoldi, le indennità, le pensioni, ed in generale tutti gli assegnamenti ed averi mensili per qualsivoglia titolo, compresi i nostri proprii e quelle delle persone della vostra Regia Casa e Famiglia, pagabili dalla Tesoreria-Generale, eccettochè per soddisfazione di crediti costituiti per contratti, contribuiranno al prestito colle seguenti proporzioni:

Le somme mensili fino a ducati cinque nulla contribuiranno; le altre, da quelle maggiori di ducati cinque fino a ducati cinquanta lordi saranno tassate del montare corrispondente ad una giornata di soldo, che sarà calcolata per la trentesima parte del soldo, pensiune o assegnamento. Questa tassa sarà fatta e calcolata mensilmente fino a tutto Dicembre 1848: la prima a 30 Maggio, 1848.

Le somme mensili da ducati cinquanta inclusive, fino a ducati cento, saranno tassate per la rata corrispondente ad una giornata e mezzo.

Da ducati cento inclusive, fino a ducati centocinquanta, saranno tassate per la rata di due giornate.

Da ducati centocinquanta inclusive, fino a ducati duecento, per la rata di tre giornate.

Da ducati duecento inclusive, fino a ducati trecento, per la rata di quattro giornate.

Da ducati trecento inclusive in poi per la rata di cinque giornate.

3. I soldi ed averi mensili degl'impiegati delle intendenze, sotto-intendenze, officine municipali, e pubblici stabilimenti, sopporteranno la medesima tassa e colle medesime proporzioni ed eccezioni stabilite nel numero precedente.

4. I corpi morali, nei quali sono compresi i beneficii, le mense e badie di qualsivoglia natura, le commende, le case religiose possidenti di uomini e donne, le Congregazioni ecclesiastiche e laicali, contribuiranno al prestito nel modo indicato nell'Articolo XV.

Sono eccettuati gl'istituti addetti ad opere continue ed assidue di beneficenza verso gl'indigenti e gl'infermi, le parrocchie, ed i comuni.

5. Le professioni legali, mediche, chirurgiche, farmaceutiche, notarili, e di architettura, contribuiranno nel modo stabilito nell'Articolo XIX. Le arti e mestieri sono eccettuati.

6. Le proprietà immobili contribuiranno per la somma di ducati 500,000 siccome è detto nell'Articolo XX.

XI. Per la varietà delle sei contribuzioni indicate nell' Articolo precedente sono stabiliti le forme e modi di tassazione indicati nel regolamento di cui si parla nell' Articolo XXV e negli Articoli seguenti.

XII. I contribuenti notati nel No. 1 dell' Articolo X pagheranno la contribuzione in due rate, una nel 18 Maggio, l'altra nel 18 Giugno, 1848; i procedimenti e le coazioni ordinate dalle leggi per la percezione de la imposta fondiaria sono stabiliti per l'esazione di questa contribuzione.

Coloro che per tutto il dì 30 Maggio non avranno adempito al versamento della rata, che scade a 20 Maggio, avranno la rendita trasferita col godimento dal 1° Gennaio, 1849, e non dal 1° Luglio, 1848; la medesima ammenda è stabilita per coloro che non adempiranno al versamento della seconda rata per tutto il dì 30 Giugno: e per coloro, che per questo stesso dì non abbiano pagato nè la prima nè la seconda, il godimento della rendita comincerà dal 1° Luglio, 1849, salve sempre le coazioni già dette. Ancora sarà agli uni ed agli altri inadempienti vietata ogni agevolazione di cambiali ed altro nelle spedizioni doganali, e le loro firme apposte direttamente o indirettamente in qualsivoglia effetto saranno rifiutate dalla Casa di Sconto fino a che non abbiano adempito al pagamento, e per sei mesi dopo.

XIII. I contribuenti notati nel numero 2 dell' Articolo X faranno i loro versamenti, per merce di ritenute, che la Tesoreria Generale farà di per sé medesima sui pagamenti mensili di ciascuno. Per quelli notati nel numero 3 del detto Articolo X le ritenute saranno fatte da ciascun cassiere o pagatore di ogni officina e stabilimento: da costoro poi saranno versate le somme alla Tesoreria Generale, come è indicato nel regolamento.

XIV. Quando i versamenti, come sopra, sieno compiuti, i contribuenti dei numeri 1, 2 e 3, otterranno i certificati appositi, che daranno loro i medesimi diritti e doveri assegnati nell' Articolo VII ai prestatori spontanei. Il regolamento indicherà i modi della dazione ed esibizione de' certificati, specialmente di quelli che non giungano alla somma di ducati 20 pe' contribuenti de' numeri 2 e 3.

XV. La partizione della contribuzione fra le persone morali notate nel numero 4 dell' Articolo X sarà fatta da una commissione composta ai termini del Regolamento.

Sarà serbata la seguente proporzione nella tassa. Quelle mense, beneficii, badie, e commende la rendita delle quali, compresi nel calcolo gli stabili, i censi, i capitali, i crediti e le rendite costituite o iscritte sul Gran Libro non ecceda gli annui ducati 499, non soggiaceranno ad alcun pagamento. Quelle che avranno un' annua rendita da ducati 500 a 1000 daranno la somma corrispondente a ducati 2 per 100.

Da Ducati	1,001 a	2,000 il	3 per 100.
	2,001 a	3,000 il	4 per 100.
	3,001 a	5,000 il	5 per 100.
	5,001 a	8,000 il	6 per 100.
	8,001 a	10,000 il	7 per 100.
	10,001 a	20,000 il	8 per 100.
	20,000	in oltre	il 10 per 100.

Le case religiose e le congregazioni ed ogni altro corpo morale, pagheranno il 3 per 100 sul montare della loro rendita qualunque sia.

I versamenti saranno fatti in due rate; una nel 20 Maggio, l'altra nel 20 Giugno, 1848.

XVI. I termini della partizione e dei reclami, come ogni altra formalità e coazione per la contribuzione dei corpi morali ed il rilascio degli estratti sono stabiliti nel regolamento. I procedimenti e coazioni stabilite nelle leggi per la percezione dell' imposta fondiaria, sono stabiliti ancora per questa contribuzione;

Il rimborso sarà come si dice nell' Articolo VII.

Laddove per tutto il dì 30 Maggio non sia stata versata la prima rata del prestito, e per tutto il dì 30 Giugno la seconda, la rendita sarà trasferita col godimento indicato nell' Articolo XII.

XVII. Tutti quei corpi morali che rifiuteranno l'esibizione dei loro libri e carte da cui apparisca la rendita, saranno obbligati al pagamento della somma corrispondente al 10 per 100. Quelli che offriranno sponta-

neamente la somma di ducati 2 mila per tutto il 30 Maggio, 1848, potranno non esibere alcun libro, carta, e documenti, comechè richiesti: e di essi sarà fatta onorevole menzione nel "Giornale Costituzionale."

XVIII. Le mense e beneficii debitori di pensioni sul terzo pensionabile avranno facoltà di ritenere proporzionatamente dai pensionarii le somme versate: ed avranno il debito di dar conto e pagar loro tutto quello che proporzionatamente otterranno di rimborso del capitale e pagamento dello interesse nel tempo e modi in cui il realizzeranno.

XIX. Alla contribuzione delle professioni indicate nel No. 5 dell' Articolo X sarà proceduto facendosi la partizione nei modi e forme stabiliti nel Regolamento. I versamenti saranno fatti anche in due rate, una nel 20 Maggio, l'altra nel 20 Giugno, 1848. L'indugio dei pagamenti oltre il 30 Maggio, ed il 30 Giugno ritarderà il godimento della rendita come è stabilito negli Articoli XII e XVI.

Le coazioni e procedimenti autorizzati ne' medesimi Articoli sono stabiliti anenra per questa contribuzione. Il rimborso sarà fatto come nell' Art. VII.

XX. I contribuenti notati nel numero 6 dell' Articolo X adempiranno alla contribuzione pagando in due rate, una nel 20 Maggio, l'altra nel 2 Giugno, 1848, la somma loro apposta.

I contribuenti siffatti non avranno i certificati, de' quali si parla nell' Articolo VII, ma avranno invece al compiere del secondo versamento un bono, del quale il regolamento indica i modi, per ciascuna somma versata, con più l'interesse del 5 per 100 sulla somma medesima calcolato a scalate per 18 mesi, coll' obbligazione del pagamento in sei rate dal 15 Febbraio, 1849, fino al 15 Dicembre dell' anno stesso. Questi boni, che saranno trascribibili per girata, potranno essere dati e dovranno essere ricevuti in pagamento di parte della imposta fondiaria da scadere dal 15 Febbraio, 1849, in poi.

Laddove prima di una o più scadenze dei boni medesimi il prestito fosse rimborsato, sarà scemato dalla somma del bono il montare dell' interesse per il tempo non ancora decorso.

XXI. Ciascun possessore dei detti boni che giungessero alla somma di ducati venti netta dell' interesse, o l'ecedessero, avrà facoltà di ottenere, con la esibizione dei boni medesimi al Direttore del Gran Libro, gli estratti di renditi come quelli di cui si parla nell' Articolo VII. In tal caso otterrà tanta rendita quanta corrisponda al prezzo di cento per cinque sul danaro effettivamente sborsato per l'anticipazione.

Tutti i contribuenti che non avessero versato per tutto il 30 Maggio la prima rata, avranno i boni senza alcuna somma per interesse; e coloro che non avessero versato la seconda per tutto il 15 Giugno, non potranno versare i boni per l'imposizione del 1849, ma del 1850.

XXII. I Ricevitori-Generali, Distrettuali ed i Percettori ed Esattori comunali, nel versamento che faranno delle somme ricevute, riterranno la quarta parte degli emolumenti che le leggi sulle contribuzioni dirette loro concedono per la percezione della imposta fondiaria.

XXIII. Potendo intervenire che le tasse non appieno determinate come quelle dei numeri 2, 3, 4 e 5 dell' Articolo X diano nella loro esecuzione somme maggiori di quelle che si domandano, è dichiarato che l'eccesso sulla somma intera del prestito sarà restituito ai prestatori obbligati serbandosi l'ordine seguente.

Sarà primamente ammortizzato il credito dei contribuenti più lievemente tassati, che prima degli altri avranno fatto i loro versamenti e non avranno meritato alcuna coazione.

In ogni caso di ammortamento di tutto o parte del prestito saranno sempre pagate le rate d'interesse stabilito in questo decreto e scadute a tempo del pagamento.

XXIV. Accadendo prima della dazione degli estratti di renditi che alcuno dei prestatori manchi di vita, i suoi eredi e successori potranno sperimentare in tutti i modi di legge i diritti di rimborso del prestito e pagamento dell' interesse che egli lascia nella sua successione.

XXV. Il regolamento annesso al presente decreto è da noi approvato: onde avrà la medesima forza e vigore.

XXVI. Il Ministro Segretario di Stato delle Finanze darà le istru-

zioni che saranno opportune alla esecuzione sì di questo decreto che dell' annesso regolamento. Gli altri Ministri a volte loro solleciteranno l'esecuzione medesima.

XXVII. Il nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato delle Finanze è incaricato della esecuzione del presente decreto.

Napoli, 26 Aprile, 1848.

(Firmato) FERDINANDO.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato, Presid. del
Cons. de' Ministri,

CARLO TROYA.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato delle Finanze,
P. FERRETTI.

Regolamento annesso al Decreto del 26 Aprile, 1848, per l'esecuzione del Prestito di tre milioni di ducati.

TITOLO I.

Partizione della Contribuzione del Prestito.

I. La partizione della contribuzione di ducati 700 mila fra le persone notate nel No. 1 del Article X del mentovato decreto sarà fatta—

Dalla Camera di Commercio di Napoli, per la capitale et provincia;

Dalla Camera Consultiva di Commercio di Foggia, per le tre Provincie di Capitanata, Terra di Bari e Terra d'Otranto;

Da una Commissione, per le altre provincie, composta dall' Intendente Presidente, il Ricevitore-Generale, il Primo Eletto e due decurioni più antichi di nomina del comune capoluogo.

II. Le Camere e Commissioni suddette procederanno e compiranno nel termine di otto giorni d' oggi in Napoli, e di quindici giorni nelle provincie, la partizione di tutti i commercianti ed altre persone indicate nel numero 1 dell' Article X in quattro ordini:

Il primo dei quali sarà sgravato del peso della contribuzione siccome inatto a sopportarla.

Il secondo sarà gravato di una tassa minima, che per ciascuna persona sarà di ducati 20.

Il terzo di una tassa media.

Il quarto di una tassa massima.

III. La somma di ducati 220 mila parte de' ducati 700 mila sarà divisa fra le varie provincie nelle seguenti proporzioni:

Per le tre Provincie di Capitanata, Terra di Bari e Terra d'Otranto, ducati 36,140 dalla prima; 76,660 dalla seconda; 15,150 dalla terza.

Per la Provincia di

	Ducati.
Terra di Lavoro - - - -	27,500.
Principato Citeriore - - -	11,400.
Principato Ulteriore - - -	5,200.
Basilicata - - - -	6,620.
Calabria Citeriore - - - -	10,100.
Calabria Ulteriore prima - -	10,100.
Calabria Ulteriore seconda -	5,800.
Molise - - - -	2,280.
Abruzzo Citeriore - - - -	8,600.
Abruzzo Ulteriore primo - -	1,090.
Abruzzo Ulteriore secondo - -	3,320.

Composto adunque il primo ordine, e partita fra i componenti del secondo la somma di ducati venti per ciascuno di costoro, quel che rimane si partirà fra gli altri due ordini, determinando la tassa media e la tassa massima.

IV. Nel comporre il primo ordine le Camere e Commissioni avviseranno esser mente del Governo che siano sgravate della contribuzione coloro, che veramente assai patirebbero nella fortuna loro pagando la rata minima del prestito: ma sia giustizia non indulgenza e molto meno favore

l'allogare i cittadini in quell'ordine; per il che si confida nella integrità delle Camere e Commissioni, che giovinsi di quel potere con molta parsimonia, e con provvidenza di padre di famiglia.

V. Perchè il lavoro delle Camere e Commissioni sia agevolato sarà lecito ad ognuno presentare le notizie di coloro che debbono comprendersi nella tassa; la quale dovendo essere tanto più lieve per ciascuno quanto maggiore è il numero de' contribuenti, ognuno di essi è interessato ad indicare coloro che vi sono soggetti. Ancora sarà lecito ad ognuno fare la sua dichiarazione per essere compreso nella tassa medesima, ed evitare le conseguenze del ruolo suppletorio, di cui si parla nell'Articolo X.

VI. Nel giorno immediatamente posteriore al termine già detto nell'Articolo IV, le Camere di Commercio e le Commissioni Provinciali dovranno inviare ai direttori delle contribuzioni dirette di ciascuna provincia, il quadro dei contribuenti colle indicazioni dei domicili e delle somme assegnate a ciascuno.

I direttori nel termine di un giorno ne faranno la pubblicazione per affissione alla porta dell'officina della Direzione; e dopo due giorni ne faranno la spedizione in "Ruoli straordinarii" a ciascun percettore o esattore comunale; i quali ne faranno l'esazione in due rate designate nel decreto, facendo precedere ventiquattro ore prima l'invio del certificato, di cui si parla nell'Articolo XIX.

Daranno intanto notizia della spedizione dei ruoli ai Ricevitori-Generali, indicando il carico di ciascuna percelloria; i Ricevitori-Generali immediatamente daranno la notizia medesima ai ricevitori distrettuali. Immediatamente dopo la spedizione dei ruoli, i ricevitori distrettuali invieranno le loro "obbliganze" ai Ricevitori-Generali, che invieranno le loro alla Tesoreria-Generale.

VII. I reclami contro la partizione fatta dalle Camere di Commercio e dalle Commissioni che non saranno altrimenti sospensivi, saranno proposti non oltre i tre giorni dall'avvertimento fatto dal percettore o esattore, per via di affissione del ruolo alla porta della casa comunale.

Saranno prodotti al Consiglio d'Intendenza della provincia che deciderà inappellabilmente, e di tutti i reclami collettivamente, in una sola decisione, con indagini sommarie, nel termine di giorni dieci da quello in cui sia spirato il termine per reclamare.

VIII. I reclami possono esser fondati ne' tre casi seguenti:

1. Se il reclamante sia stato malamente collocato in uno de' tre ordini gravati;

2. Se altri sia stato collocato in un ordine anteriore a quello che meritava;

3. Se altri sia stato ommesso.

A reclami debbonsi unire i documenti che li sostengono; in mancanza di documenti basta indicare le notizie opportune al giudizio del magistrato.

IX. Nel caso che i reclami sieno ammessi, il Consiglio indicherà nella decisione la somma di cui sono assoluti i reclamanti e gravati tutti gli altri. L'Intendente invierà copia della decisione al Direttore fra tre giorni dalla sua emanazione; ed il Direttore fra tre giorni dall'avviso spedirà i "ruoli suppletorii" opportuni, che saranno eseguiti come i precedenti. Le somme che si otterranno dalla percezione dei ruoli suppletorii saranno restituite ai reclamanti, finita la percezione, per via di mandati della Tesoreria-Generale o dei suoi rappresentanti.

X. Coloro che non essendo stati punto compresi ne' primi ruoli, sieno compresi ne' "suppletorii" e non adempiano ai pagamenti delle rate scadute, saranno posti nella condizione di coloro, che secondo l'Articolo XII del Decreto, non avranno adempiuto al pagamento di ambedue le rate; cioè avranno la rendita col godimento dal 1 Luglio, 1849.

XI. La partizione della contribuzione fra le persone notate nel No. 4 del già detto Articolo X, sarà fatta da una Commissione composta del Segretario Generale della Intendenza Presidente, dal Sindaco del Comune Capoluogo, dal Direttore delle Contribuzioni Dirette, dal più anziano Consigliere del Consiglio degli Ospizi, e dal notaio ultimo nominato e presente nel comune capoluogo.

I termini del procedimento della Commissione, i modi della percezione, ed i reclami saranno quelli stessi stabiliti negli Articoli precedenti.

XII. La partizione della contribuzione fra le persone notate nel No. 5 del mentovato Articolo X sarà fatta dalle commissioni seguenti; per essa, per la percezione e pe' reclami saranno serbati le regole modi e termini stabiliti negli Articoli precedenti.

XIII. Per gli avvocati e patrocinatori di Napoli dalla Camera di Disciplina degli Avvocati: e per le altre provincie dove non sono Camere di Avvocati nè di Patrocinatori, da un Collegio preseduto dal Regio Procuratore presso il Tribunale Civile, e composto da costui e da un avvocato e due patrocinatori più anziani del Tribunale medesimo; il patrocinatore ultimo iscritto nell' alba ne sarà il segretario senza voto.

Pei medici, chirurghi, e farmacisti in Napoli dalla Commissione del Protomedicato: e nelle altre provincie da un collegio composto dal Vice-Protomedico dal secondo Eletto e da un decurione del comune capoluogo nominato dall' Intendente.

Per gli architetti da una commissione composta in Napoli dal Direttore-Generale de' Ponti e Strade, dal Presidente del Tribunale Civile, da un Ispettor Generale nominato dal Direttore-Generale di Ponti e Strade e dal Decano della Facoltà Fisico-Matematica della Regia Università, o in sua mancanza dal Professore più antico della Facoltà: e nelle altre provincie dal Presidente del Tribunale Civile, dall' Ispettor Provinciale dei Ponti e Strade e da un altro architetto da eleggersi dall' Intendente.

Pei notai dalle Camere Notariali di ciascuna provincia.

XIV. Le Commissioni si aduneranno secondo la disposizione de' Presidenti, o nelle case di costoro o nelle case comunali. Potranno stabilire di adunarsi in altro luogo, purchè il vogliano unanimamente.

XV. Gl' Intendenti di ciascuna provincia hanno il dovere di curare la pronta adunanza di tutte le Commissioni; laonde convocheranno subito i componenti. Laddove alcuno di essi che non sia pubblico funzionario, rinunzi l'incarico, immediatamente l'Intendente nominerà in quella vece un probo ed onorato cittadino dal comune capoluogo. Sarà lo stesso se il rinunziante sia pubblico funzionario; ma in tal caso o lo sospenderà di uffizio, se le leggi gli el consentono, o ne farà relazione all' autorità competente a pronunziargli contro misure disciplinari.

XVI. Le Camere di Commercio e le Commissioni composte come sopra è detto avranno il dritto di chiedere immediatamente e direttamente da qualsivoglia uffiziale pubblico le notizie e documenti necessari per fare le loro partizioni.

XVII. Alla commissione di cui si parla nel precedente Articolo XI, ciascun corpo morale di ciascuna provincia dovrà presentare nel termine di cinque giorni da oggi in Napoli, e di dodici giorni da oggi nelle altre provincie, una dichiarazione della sua rendita col libro o altro valido documento del conto avuto dal suo contabile principale, o amministratore qualunque sia, per l'esercizio del 1847, o anche del 1846. Laddove la Commissione creda bastante per la liquidazione quel documento procederà alla tassa, laddove nol creda bastante farà esibire nel termine di tre giorni i libri, registri, plate, ed ogni altro titolo opportuno, affiggendo a tale uopo un avviso alla porta della Casa Comunale.

Se per questo indagini, decorra il termine assegnato nell' Articolo II, le Commissioni dopo cinque giorni dal decorso termine dovranno tassare secondo il loro prudente arbitrio; ed invieranno all' Intendente la notizia della tassa affinchè quel contribuente sia notato insieme cogli altri nel " ruolo suppletorio," di cui si parla nel precedente Articolo X.

XVIII. Sarà adetto alle Commissioni quel numero d'impiegati delle intendenze o dei comuni, che gl' Intendenti crederanno opportuno.

TITOLO II.

Della Percezione delle Contribuzioni.

XIX. Essendo nel Decreto stabilito che i procedimenti della percezione sieno quelli stessi della imposta fondiaria, la percezione medesima si farà dai percettori ed esattori comunali ne' vari circondarii e comuni.

I " ruoli " sono inviati da' Direttori, come è detto.

I certificati de' versamenti saranno staccati da "libri a tallone," ed avranno un numero d'ordine progressivo. In ciascun certificato saranno segnate due colonne orizzontali: in una sarà notato il versamento della prima rata; nell'altra la seconda. In capo al certificato sarà scritto "l'avvertimento" delle scadenze e delle somme dovute.

Compiuto il secondo versamento, il percettore noterà nel certificato la parola "saldo." E da quel punto il certificato sarà titolo del contribuente per ottenere l'estratto di rendita ne' modi indicati nel Decreto, salva la verifica di cui si parla nell'Articolo XXVI.

XX. I Controllori delle contribuzioni dirette vigileranno direttamente alla percezione ne' loro distretti, perchè sia fatta speditamente o legalmente.

XXI. I percettori daranno notizia ai Ricevitori Distrettuali, e costoro ai Ricevitori Generali, e costoro alla Tesoreria-Generale del numero dei certificati rilasciati indicando il numero d'ordine progressivo del "libro a tallone," ed un altro nuovo numero progressivo, il nome del contribuente, ed il versamento seguito o mancato della prima rata. Questa notizia sarà data nel giorno 1 Giugno in un quadro a quattro colonne, ed in due esemplari, uno de' quali rimarrà nella direzione delle contribuzioni dirette, ed un altro nella Tesoreria-Generale.

XXII. Un quadro simile al precedente sarà inviato medesimamente nel giorno 1 Luglio, nell'ultima colonna del quale sarà notato il seguito o non seguito versamento della seconda rata.

XXIII. I percettori ed esattori dovranno immediatamente notare nel quadro i versamenti. I contribuenti avranno il diritto di far fare il pagamento in loro presenza.

XXIV. Per i contribuenti notati No. 1 e 3 dell'Articolo X del Decreto, i cassieri o pagatori, sotto la responsabilità degli amministratori, verseranno in ogni mese il montare di tutte le "ritenute" nella Tesoreria Generale.

TITOLO III.

Dei Titoli di Sicurezza del Rimborso.

XXV. I certificati rilasciati dai percettori ed esattori col saldo saranno vistati dai Ricevitori Generali e dai Direttori delle Contribuzioni Dirette. In que sta forma saranno esibiti al Direttore-Generale del Gran Libro secondo l'Articolo VII del decreto.

XXVI. Il Direttore-Generale verificherà se il contribuente sia notato nei due quadri mentovati ne' precedenti Articoli XXI e XXII: dopo il che rilascerà l'estratto di rendita iscritta corrispondente alla somma versata.

XXVII. La rendita iscritta sarà trasferita al contribuente indicato nel certificato, il quale nell'esibirlo noterà in dorso del certificato medesimo il nome del padre. Laddove egli voglia che si trasferisca la rendita ad altri dovrà produrre una dichiarazione in atto autentico come è stabilito per le immobilizzazioni.

XXVIII. I contribuenti notati nei numeri 2 e 3 dell'Articolo X del Decreto di Gennaio 1849, otterranno i certificati dalla Tesoreria-Generale: questi certificati avranno i medesimi effetti di quelli rilasciati dai percettori.

XXIX. I certificati che giungano alla somma di ducati 20 o l'eccedano di altri 20 o più, ma sempre da 20 in 20, saranno esibiti alla Direzione Generale del Gran Libro per ottenere gli estratti di rendita di anni ducati uno o più, sempre crescenti da ducato a ducato, e senza frazioni.

I certificati che non giungano alla somma di ducati 20 saranno esibiti dagli impiegati ai capi delle diverse Amministrazioni; da' pensionisti ed assegnatari ai capi di quelle amministrazioni da cui deriva il diritto o la concessione della pensione o assegnamento; e dagli altri contribuenti ad un notaio certificatore, che sulla domanda di chiunque di essi sarà nominata dal Sindaco del Comune. Fatta questa nomina il Sindaco la pubblicherà per affisso alla porta della Casa Comunale. Così i capi delle

Amministrazioni sulle dimande, se le avranno, degl' impiegati ed assegnatari o anche senza dimande nomineranno uno o più notai certificatori depositari dei certificati che costoro esibiranno per avere un' estratto di rendita trasferita. I quali notai depositari cureranno l'esazione e la distribuzione del semestre d'interesse e del capitale o della differenza di cui si parli negli Articoli III e VI del Decreto.

XXX. Le stesse regole indicate nel precedente Articolo saranno serbate per certificati, i quali eccedono la somma di ducati venti, ma non giungano a quaranta, e così oltre. Ma tanto quelli indicati nell' Articolo XXVII, come questi, daranno diritto agli esbitori di ottenere la rendita proporzionata laddove costoro vogliano versare nella Tesoreria-Generale la differenza per compiere la somma necessaria a fare cessare la frazioni di rendita.

Per l'esecuzione di questo Articolo e del precedente, sarà data se occorrerà, un' apposita istruzione dal Ministro delle Finanze, che sarà pubblicata per affisso alla porta di ogni casa comunale.

XXXI. Sarà data abilità ad ogni prestatore di affidare il certificato al Perceptore od Esattore comunale o al Ricevitore distrettuale o al Ricevitore-Generale. In siffatti casi i Ricevitori-Generali invieranno al Direttore-Generale del Gran Libro i certificati medesimi e ne ritireranno gli estratti di rendita che faranno pervenire a' prestatori; e pendente quella operazione sarà dato a costoro un provvisorio certificato.

Napoli, 26 Aprile, 1848.

L'Approvo.

(Firmato)

FERDINANDO.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato della Finanza,

(Firmato)

P. FERRETTI.

(Translation.)

Decree for the Lending a Forced Loan.

I. A loan shall be raised on the General Treasury of Naples, amounting to three millions of ducats.

II. The said loan shall be obligatory for the sum of two millions, and voluntary and spontaneous for that of one million.

III. The lenders shall receive the restitution of their capital not later than the 31st of December, 1850; the restitution of the whole, or part of it, before that time shall not be prohibited. During that period a yearly interest of 5 per cent. shall be paid, at the time when the dividends of the interest of the public debt become due. The interest shall begin to count from the 1st of July, 1848, paid half-yearly, so that the first dividend will fall due at the end of 1848, and the last at the end of 1850.

IV. As a security for the reimbursement of the capital and for the payment of the interest, an annual sum of 100,000 ducats, at 5 per cent. interest, is to be destined for the purpose, and inscribed in the Great Book of the Public Debt, placed at the disposal of the General Treasury, the interest to begin from the 1st of July, 1848, which sum, together with that already existing in favour of the said Treasury, shall be issued in corresponding shares to the lenders, each 100 ducats giving 5 ducats interest.

V. As soon as the said rent shall be given to the lenders it shall remain unsaleable, and not to be put in circulation until the 31st of December, 1850, at which time, should the debt remain unpaid, the rent shall become transferable, and capable of being put in circulation, without any other form and without any new regulation of the Minister of Finance. In the certificates of rent, on their being issued, the following words shall be inscribed, "Unsaleable and not transferable until the 31st of December, 1850."

VI. The Treasury shall indemnify the lenders for the difference which may arise between the average value of the funds for the month of December and the capital advanced. The amount of such a difference shall be paid on or before the 31st of December, 1852, an interest of 5 per

cent. upon that sum being meanwhile paid at the end of every six months, viz.: on the last day of June and on the last day of December.

VII. Every voluntary contributor may advance any sum, provided it be not under 20 ducats, by paying it, in Naples, to the Treasury-General, and in the provinces, to the Receiver-General and the Receiver of the District; in Naples the payments may also be made to the Receiver and Tax-gatherer of the Communal taxes.

The payment may be made by instalments. The first shall not be less than the fourth part of the sum total. For every sum of 20 ducats or more already paid, the contributor shall obtain a certificate, by showing which the Director-General of the Great Book shall order the transfer to be made in favour of the person named, and shall give then the certificate of rent in the funds to the person who has exhibited the first certificate.

Should the last instalment not take place on or before the 30th of May, 1848, the sums paid before shall not be returned, and will go to the Treasury, being considered as a free gift for the benefit of the State.

VIII. The names of the voluntary contributors, published in the "Constitutional Journal," shall be recommended as deserving the thanks and consideration of the grateful nation.

IX. The forced loan shall be levied on the following class of people, and according to the following rules and proportions:

Those who do not contribute to the forced loan shall have their names published in the "Constitutional Journal."

X. The following are obliged to contribute to the loan:—

1st. All the merchants, manufacturers, small dealers, commercial agents, and stockbrokers of the city and province of Naples.

All merchants, manufacturers, and brokers of the other provinces, shop-keepers and small dealers excepted.

The sum of 700,000 ducats shall be advanced by all the provinces collectively, 480,000 for the city and province of Naples, and 220,000 for all the other provinces, in the proportion specified in the regulation of which mention is made in Article XXV.

2nd. All the salaries, extra salaries, indemnities, pensions, and, in general, every monthly allowance, under whatever denomination, including our own and those of the members of our Family and of our Household, payable by the Treasury, excepting those received in payment for credits established by contracts, shall all be chargeable to make up the loan in the following proportions:

The monthly salaries of or under 5 ducats shall be exempted. From upwards of 5 ducats to 50 ducats they shall pay one day's salary, which will be considered equal to 1-30 of the monthly salary or allowance. This tax shall be levied monthly until the end of December 1848; the first to be paid on the 30th of May.

The monthly salaries from 50 ducats inclusive to 100 ducats shall be subjected to a taxation equal to the pay of one day and a half.

From 100 ducats inclusive to 150 ducats the taxation shall be equal to two days' salary.

From 150 ducats inclusive to 200 ducats three days' salary.

From 200 ducats inclusive to 300 ducats four days' salary.

From 300 ducats and upwards the taxation shall be five days' salary.

3rd. The salaries and monthly allowances of all the employes, of the intendencies, sub-intendencies, municipal offices, and public establishments shall be taxed in the same proportions and with the same exemption specified in the preceding number.

4th. The religious corporations, in which are included the benefices, the episcopal sees, and abbeys of every description, the commendaries, and religious houses both of men and women, the lay and ecclesiastical bodies shall contribute to the loan in the manner specified in Article XV.

The institutions for the relief of the poor and sick, the parish churches, and the communes are exempted.

5th. Lawyers, physicians, surgeons, chemists, notaries, and architects shall contribute in the manner specified in Article XIX; artists and artisans are exempted.

6th. The possessors of land property shall contribute to the amount of 500,000 ducats as it is stated in Article XX.

XI. The form and manner according to which the taxation is to be levied with respect to the six different classes of contributors mentioned in the preceding Article, shall be specified in the regulation of which mention is made in Article XXV and in the following Articles.

XII. The contributors named in No. 1 of the Xth Article shall give their contribution in two payments, the first on the 18th of May, and the second on the 18th of June, 1848; the legal proceeding and coercive measures prescribed by the law for the exaction of the laud-tax shall be applicable also for the exaction of this contribution.

Those who shall not have paid in on the 30th of May that portion of the contribution which was due on the 20th of the said month, shall receive interest from the 1st of January, 1849, and not from the 1st of July, 1848, the same fine shall be imposed upon those who do not make the second payment on the 30th of June: and for those who on that day shall not have made neither the first nor the second payment, the interest shall only begin to count from the 1st of July, 1849. They being subject besides to the coercive measures specified above. They shall be deprived of all facilities, as giving bills for the payment of custom-house duties, &c., and their signatures, under whatever form they may appear, shall be refused by the discounting office, until they shall have made the payment, and for six months afterwards.

XIII. The contributors specified in the 2nd Number of the Xth Article shall pay their quota by deductions made in their monthly salaries by the Treasury. Those described in the 3rd Number of the Xth Article shall pay by deductions in their salaries being made by the cashier or treasurer of each office or establishment, who will transmit the money to the General Treasury, as prescribed by the regulation.

XIV. When the payments are made, the contributors of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Number shall receive the corresponding certificates, which will invest them with the same rights and obligations belonging to the voluntary contributors.

The regulation shall specify the manner in which those certificates are to be issued and exhibited, particularly for those persons mentioned in the 2nd and 3rd Number, whose contributions do not reach 20 ducats.

XV. The partition of the contribution paid by the corporate bodies mentioned in the 4th Number of the Xth Article, shall be arranged by a commission composed according to the regulation.

The tax shall be levied in the following proportion:—The episcopal sees, benefices, abbeyes, and commendaries, the annual income of which, including landed property, leasehold property, capitals, credits, and rents inscribed in the Great Book, does not exceed 499 ducats, shall not be subjected to any contribution. Those amounting to a yearly rent from 500 to 1000 ducats, shall pay a sum equal to 2 ducats for every 100 ducats.

From 1,001 to 2,000 ducats, shall pay 3 ducats for every 100 ducats.

From 2,001 to 3,000 - - - 4 " " "

From 3,001 to 5,000 - - - 5 " " "

From 5,001 to 8,000 - - - 6 " " "

From 8,001 to 10,000 - - - 7 " " "

From 10,001 to 20,000 - - - 8 " " "

From 20,000 upwards - - - 10 " " "

Monasteries, convents, and corporate bodies shall pay 3 per cent. on the amount of their income from whatever sources it may be derived.

The payment shall be made in two separate instalments, the first on the 20th of May, and the second on the 20th of June, 1848.

XVI. The time within which the partition and the objections to the payment are to be made, as well as any other form or coercive measures to be adopted against the corporate bodies, and the rules for the issue of certificates shall be specified in the regulation.

The legal proceedings and the coercive measures prescribed by the laws for the exaction of the laud tax shall be applicable also to this contribution.

The reimbursement shall take place in the manner prescribed in Article VII.

Should the first instalment not be made on the 30th of May, and the second on the 30th of June, the rent shall be transferred, giving the interest specified in Article XII.

XVII. All the corporate bodies which shall refuse to produce their books and registers, by which their income can be ascertained, shall be subjected to the payment of a sum equal to 10 per cent. Those who shall offer spontaneously the sum of 2000 ducats before the 30th of May, 1848, shall not be obliged to show any of their books, registers, or documents, even if required to do so, and honourable mention of their name shall be made in the "Constitutional Journal."

XVIII. The episcopal sees and the benefices upon which pensions are chargeable, have the power of making proportionate deductions from the pensioners for the sums due from them, and they shall be under the obligation of giving an account and of paying them whatever reimbursements they may receive of the capital or interest according to due proportion at the time, and in the manner in which it may become due.

XIX. The contribution of professional persons specified in No. 5 of Article X shall be levied according to the forms established in the regulation. The payment shall be made in two instalments—one on the 20th of May, and the other on the 20th of June, 1848. Any delay in the payments beyond the 30th of May and 30th of June, shall delay the payment of the interest as prescribed in Articles XII and XVI.

The coercive measures and legal proceedings authorized by the said Articles are also applicable to this contribution. The reimbursement shall also take place in the manner prescribed by Article VII.

XX. The contributors mentioned in No. 6 of Article X shall pay their contribution in two instalments, one on the 20th of May and the other on the 2nd of June, 1848.

The above-mentioned contributors shall not receive the certificates of which mention is made in Article VII, but shall instead, after the second instalment, receive a "bono" better specified in the regulation, for each sum paid, and also the interest at the rate of 5 per cent. on the said sum, diminishing in proportion for 18 months, with the obligation of making the payment in six instalments, from the 15th February, 1849, to the 15th December of the same year. These "boni," which are to be transferable, may be given, and must be received in part payment of the land tax, which is due from the 15th of February downwards.

Should the debt be paid before the time that the "boni" become due, the amount of interest for the time not yet elapsed shall be deducted from the amount of the "bono."

XXI. Each possessor of the said "boni," when they amount to the sum of 20 ducats deducting the interest, or should they exceed that sum, shall be empowered to obtain, by showing them to the Director of the Great Book, the certificates of rent, as those mentioned in Article VII. In such a case he will obtain as much rent as is equal in value to 5 per cent. upon the money actually advanced.

All the contributors who should not have made the first payment before the 30th of May, shall receive the "boni" without any sum for interest: and those who should not have made the second payment before the 15th of June, shall not give the "boni" for the tax of 1849, but that of 1850.

XXII. The Receivers-General, those of the districts, the Receivers and Tax-gatherers of the communes, in paying the sums exacted, shall keep the fourth part of the emoluments, which the laws on direct taxation grant them for the exaction of the land tax.

XXIII. It being possible that the taxes not fully specified, of which mention is made in Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, of Article X, would give a total exceeding in amount the sum required, it is hereby declared that the surplus of the amount of the loan shall be returned to the forced contributors in the following proportions:—

The credits of the contributors left taxed, who have made their payments before the others without coercive measures being employed against

them, shall be first liquidated. Should the liquidation of part or of the whole of the money advanced take place, the interest established by this decree shall always be paid up to the date when the repayment is made. †

XXIV. Should any of the contributors die before the issue of certificates of rent, their heirs and successors may give legal proof of their right to the receipt of the money and interest which they are entitled to by the succession.

XXV. The regulation annexed to the present decree is approved by us, so that it shall have the same force and vigour.

XXVI. The Minister Secretary of State of Finance, shall give proper instructions for the execution of this decree, as well as for the annexed regulation. The other Ministers shall each respectively expedite the execution of the same.

XXVII. Our Minister Secretary of State of Finance is charged with the execution of the present decree.

Naples, April 26, 1848.

(Signed) FERDINAND.

The Minister Secretary of State,
President of the Council of Ministers,
CARLO TROJA.

The Minister Secretary of State of Finance,
FERRETTI.

Regulations for the Levying of the Loan.

CHAPTER I.

Partition of the Contributions to the Loan.

I. The partition of the contribution of 700,000 ducats amongst the persons specified in No. 1 of Article X of the said decree shall be made—

By the Chamber of Commerce of Naples, for the capital and province.
By the Consultive Chamber of Commerce of Foggia, for the three Provinces of Capitanata, Terra di Bari, and Terra d'Otranto.

In the other provinces by a Commission composed of the Intendente as President, the Receiver-General, the First Eletto, and the two oldest decurions of the chief town.

II. The said Chambers and Commissions shall commence operations, and shall complete the classifications in four classes, of all the merchants and other persons mentioned in No. 1 of Article X, within eight days from this time, in Naples; and fifteen days in the provinces.

The first of these shall be exempted from the contribution as being unable to afford it.

The second shall be subject to a minor tax of 20 ducats each.

The third shall be liable to a medium of rate.

The fourth to a maximum rate.

III. The sum of 220,000 ducats, forming part of the 700,000, shall be divided amongst the various provinces in the following proportions:—

For the three Provinces of Capitanata, Terra di Bari, e Terra d'Otranto, 36,140 ducats from the first; 76,660 from the second; and 15,150 from the third.

For the Province of	Ducats.
Terra di Lavoro - - - -	27,500
Principato Citeriore - - - -	11,400
Principato Ulteriore - - - -	5,200
Basilicata - - - -	6,620
Calabria Litoriore - - - -	10,100
Calabria Ulteriore, first - - - -	10,100
Calabria Ulteriore, second - - - -	5,800
Molise - - - -	2,280
Abruzzo Litoriore - - - -	8,600
Abruzzo Ulteriore, first - - - -	1,090
Abruzzo Ulteriore, second - - - -	3,320

The first class accordingly have been formed, and the sum of 20 ducats having been agreed upon as due from each member of the second, the remainder shall be distributed between the other two classes, establishing the amount of the medium and of the maximum rate.

IV. In forming the first class, the Chambers and Commissions will keep in mind that it is the intention of the Government, that those persons only should be exempted from the contribution, whose fortune would really suffer from the payment of the lowest rate of the loan, and that citizens are to be placed in this class, according to justice, not by indulgence, and much less by favour, wherefore they confide in the integrity of the Chambers or Commissions, that they will use this power most frugally, and with the carefulness of the father of a family.

V. To lighten the labours of the Chambers or Commissions, it shall be lawful for any one to give information of those who are to be included in the tax, and as it will fall so much the lighter on each person as the number of contributors shall be greater, so each person is interested in pointing out those who are subject to it. Moreover it shall be lawful for any one to declare himself liable, and thereby avoiding the consequences of the supplementary lists which are mentioned in Article X.

VI. On the day immediately following the time fixed in the 4th Article, the Chambers of Commerce and Provisional Commissions shall send to the directors of the direct contributions of each province, the list of the contributors with their residences, and the sums due from each.

The directors within the space of one day shall publish it by affixing it on the door of the bureau of the Director, and after two days, shall issue it in extra lists, to each Receiver or communal tax-Collector, who shall levy the tax in the certificate of which mention is made in list 18th, to be sent twenty-four hours before.

They shall also give notice of the issue of these lists to the Receivers-General, explaining the duty of each Receiver's office. The Receivers-General shall immediately give the same notice to the receivers of the district. Immediately after the issuing of the lists, the district receivers shall send the amount of the sums collected by them to the Receivers-General, who shall transmit theirs to the General Treasury.

VII. Reclamations against the partitions made by the Chambers of Commerce or Commissions, which however shall not suspend its operations, shall be made within three days, after notice has been given by the Receiver or Collector.

Such reclamations being fixed on the door of the Town Hall, they shall be submitted to the Council of Intendance of the province, which shall decide, without appeal, upon all the reclamations, collectively, upon the evidence adduced within ten days from the time allowed for making reclamations.

VIII. Reclamations can be founded in the three following cases:

1st. If the reclamation shall have been improperly placed in one of the classes liable for the payment.

2nd. If anybody else shall have been taxed at a lower rate than his fortune required.

3rd. If anybody else shall have been omitted.

Corroborative documents must be presented with the reclamations.

In the absence of documents it shall suffice to adduce convincing proof to the magistrate.

IX. In cases where reclamations shall be admitted, the Council in its decision shall declare the sum, from the payment of which the applicants are absolved, and to which others are rendered liable.

The Intendant shall send copy of this decision to the Director, within three days from its publication, and the Director, within three days, shall send out the proper extra lists which shall be acted upon like the preceding ones. The sums which may be collected from the receipts of the extra lists shall afterwards be reimbursed to the reclaimants by bills on the General Treasury or its representatives.

X. Those who shall not have been included at all in the first lists but only in the extra lists, and shall not have paid the rates due, shall be placed in the condition of those who according to the 12th Article of the

decree shall not have paid both rates, that is to say, shall commence receiving interest from the 1st June, 1849.

XI. The partition of the contribution amongst the persons specified in No. 4, of Article X, shall be made by a commission composed of the Secretary-General of Intendances President, the Judge of the chief town of the District, the Director of the Direct Taxations, the Senior Councillor of the Council degli Ospizi, and the Chief Notary resident in the district.

The limits of the proceeding of the Commission, the methods of levying, and the reclamations shall be the same as established by the preceding Articles.

XII. The partition of the contribution amongst the persons specified in the No. 5 of the Article X, shall be made by the following commissions. In this case, both as regards the method of levying and the reclamations, the same rules, methods, and limits shall be observed as are established by the preceding Articles.

XIII. For the advocates and lawyers of Naples, by the Chamber of Discipline of Lawyers, and in the other provinces where there is no Chamber of Advocates or Lawyers by a College presided over by the Attorney-General of the Civil Court, and composed of him and of an advocate and two of the senior lawyers of the said court. The lawyer last enrolled shall be the secretary without vote. For the physicians, surgeons, and chemists of Naples, by the Commission of the "Protomedicato," and in the other provinces by a college composed of the "Vice-Protomedicato," the 2nd "Eletto," and a Decurion of the chief town appointed by the Intendant.

For the architects, by a commission composed in Naples of the Director-General of Bridges and Roads, by the President of the Civil Tribunal, by an Inspector-General named by the Director-General of Bridges and Roads, and by the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Philosophy of the Royal University, or in his absence by the senior Professor of that Faculty, and in the provinces by the President of the Civil Court, the Inspector-General of Roads and Bridges, and by another architect to be chosen by the Intendant.

For the notaries, by the Chambers of Notaries of each province.

XIV. The Commissioners shall meet as may be arranged by the Presidents, either in their houses or in the town halls; should they be unanimous in their desire they may arrange to meet elsewhere.

XV. The Intendants of each province are to take care that the Commissioners do promptly meet, and shall summon for that purpose all the members. In the case one of them who may not be a public functionary shall resign his post, the Intendant shall immediately appoint in his place a respectable and esteemed citizen of the chief commune of the district. He shall do the same if the person resigning be a public functionary, but in that case he shall either suspend him from office if he can do so by law, or shall report the case to the competent authorities to pronounce judgment upon him.

XVI. The Chambers of Commerce and Commissioners composed as above shall have the right to demand immediately and directly from any public officer the notices and necessary documents for the formation of their petitions.

XVII. To the Commission of which mention is made in the preceding Article XI, each corporate body of each province must present within the term of five days in Naples and of twelve in the provinces, an account of its income, together with a book or other valid documents of the accounts received from its principal agent or administrator, whoever he may be, for the year 1847, and also 1846. When the Commission shall consider that document sufficient, they shall proceed to levy; when they shall not consider it sufficient, they shall cause to be exhibited within space of three days, the books, registers, prospectuses, and every other necessary title, fixing for that purpose a notice on the door of the Town Hall.

If in these researches the time assigned in Article II shall pass the Commissions after six days have elapsed, must proceed to levy the tax according to their own judgment, and shall give notice of the tax to the

Intendaot, so that that contribution may be taken note of, together with the others in the extra lists of which mention is made in Article X.

XVIII. Such a number of employés of the intendencies or communes shall be attached to the Commissions, as the Intendants may see fit.

CHAPTER II.

On the Receipt of the Contributions.

XIX. It being arranged by the Decree that the measures of exaction shall be the same as in the case of the land-tax, the levying shall be made by the receivers and communal tax-gatherers in the various districts.

The lists shall be sent by the Directors as above mentiooed.

The certificates of payment shall be taken from check books, which shall be numbered in each certificate; there shall be two horizontal columns, in ooe shall be certified the payment of the first-rate, in the other that of the second. In the head of the certificate shall be ooted when the rates become due and the amount of each.

After the second payment, the receiver shall put the word "paid" in the certificate, and from that moment the certificate shall enable the contributor to receive the dividends of interest in the manoeer indicated by the Decree, subject to the verification of which mention is made in Article XXVI.

XX. The comptrollers of the direct taxes shall watch over the receipts of their districts, that they may be collected quickly and according to law.

XXI. The tax-collector shall give notice to the district receivers, and these to the general receivers, of the number of certificates issued, stating also the number of the checks, together with a new progressive number, and the name of the contributor, and the payment of the first rate, whether made or omitted. This notice shall be issued on the 1st of June, in a list of four columns, and in duplicate, one copy of which shall remain in the direction of the direct taxes, and another in the General Treasury.

XXII. A similar list shall be published in the same manoeer on the 1st July, in the last column of which shall be specified the payment or non-payment of the second rate.

XXIII. The receivers and collectors shall immediately mark down the payments in the lists. The contributors shall have the right of having this done in their presence.

XXIV. In the case of the contributors of No. 3 of Article X of the Decree, the cashiers or treasurers, under the resposibility of the administrators, shall pay each month into the General Treasury, the amount of all deductions from salary.

CHAPTER III.

On the Reimbursement.

XXV. The certificates issued by the receivers and collectors, with receipts, shall be viséd by the Receivers-General and by the Directors of the Direct Taxes. In this form they shall be exhibited to the Director-General of the Great Book, according to Article VII of the Decree.

XXVI. The Director-General shall examine whether the contributor is mentioned in the two lists specified in the preceding Articles XXI and XXII; after which he shall give the order for the receipt of the interest due upon the sum paid.

XXVII. The interest iscribed shall be transferred to the contributor specified in the certificate, who, on showing it, shall note on the back of the same certificate the name of his father. In the case of his wishing to transfer this property to others, he must produce a declaration in an authenticated instrument, as has been arranged in the case of the untransferable property.

XXVIII. The contributors specified in Nos. 2 and 3 of Article X of the Decree, shall obtain in January, 1849, the certificates from the General Treasury: these certificates shall be of the same value as those issued by the receivers.

XXIX. Certificates amounting to the sum of 20 ducats, or exceeding it by 20 ducats or more, but always from 20 to 20 ducats, shall be shown at the Direction-General of the Great Book to obtain "coupons" of interest of 1 ducat a-year or more, always increasing from ducat to ducat without fractions.

Certificates which do not amount to 20 ducats, shall be shown by the employes or pensioners to the heads of the different Administrations from which the right to such pension or allowance is derived, and by the other contributors to a public notary, who shall be appointed by the Syndic of the commune, on their demand; when such appointment has been made, the Syndic shall give public notice of it by fixing it on the door of the Town Hall. The heads of the Administrations also, on the demand of the pensioners or receivers of allowances, should such demand be made, or even without such demand, shall appoint one or more public notaries, to take charge of the certificates which may be produced in exchange for a coupon's interest.

The said notaries shall watch over the exactions and distribution of the six months' rate of interest and capital, or rather of the difference, of which mention is made in Articles III and VI of the Decree.

XXX. The same rules, established in the preceding Article, shall be observed in the case of certificates which may exceed the sum of 23 ducats but do not amount to 40 ducats, and so on; but these shall give the same right as those indicated in Article XXVII to the proprietors, to obtain the proportionate amount of interest, when these shall be willing to pay into the General Treasury the difference necessary to make up the sum to avoid fractions.

For the execution of this Article and of the preceding, an instruction shall be issued by the Minister of Finance, which shall be published by being affixed at the door of every town hall.

XXXI. Power shall be given to every lender to confide the certificate to the receiver or collector of the commune, or to the district receiver or general receiver.

In such cases the general receivers shall send to the Direction-General of the Great Book the certificates themselves, and shall receive the coupons of interest, which they shall make over to the lenders, until which shall arrive they shall issue provisional certificates.

Naples, April 26, 1848.

Approved,
(Signed)

FERDINAND.

The Minister Secretary of State of Finance,
(Signed) FERRETTI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 171.

Reserve recommended to British Merchants in case of Exaction of Forced Loan.

IN making the present payment, I hereby declare that I do so of my own free will, and that I reserve to myself the privileges secured to me as a British subject, under Article III of the Commercial Convention of 1845, and my right to repayment of the above-mentioned sum, should the Government of Her Britannic Majesty decide that the levy of the present forced loan on British subjects is contrary to the terms or spirit of the said Article.

Inclosure 3 in No. 171.

*Lord Napier to the Marquis Dragonetti.**Naples, May 1, 1848.*

THE Undersigned, &c., having observed in the official journal of the 27th ultimo an ordinance appointing the levy of a forced loan on the merchants, manufacturers, and other classes of the community, the Undersigned has the honour to submit to his Excellency Marquis Dragonetti, &c., that it would be expedient to assess Her Britannic Majesty's subjects to this contribution, in consequence of the 3rd Article of the Convention of 1845, which appears to exempt them from liability to such a requisition.

The Undersigned does not at the present moment protest definitively against the exaction from Her Britannic Majesty's subjects of the present loan, for before committing Her Majesty's Legation to a positive interpretation of the Treaty in one way or another, he is desirous to refer it to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, but he requests, with perfect confidence, that the Government of His Sicilian Majesty will see the justice of his claim that Her Britannic Majesty's subjects be held exempted from the payment of any portion of this loan until the decision of Her Majesty's Government can be conveyed to the Undersigned, which may be conveyed to the Undersigned, which may be expected to occur in less than a month, a delay which can produce no inconvenience to the Neapolitan Government. Should the Neapolitan Government insist peremptorily on the payment of the present loan by Her Britannic Majesty's subjects, subjects, which the Undersigned can hardly contemplate, the Undersigned has advised them to pay their shares under protest, and the Undersigned avails himself of this present occasion to declare that any such payment shall not form a precedent to the prejudice of the rights and interests of British subjects, or derogate from the privileges secured to them by the 3rd Article of the Convention of 1845; and he reserves to Her Majesty's Government a full right to put upon that Article, notwithstanding, any interpretation which they may deem just, and to demand repayment of any sum which British subjects may be induced to pay to the Neapolitan Government in consequence of the enforcement of the present loan.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 172.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Naples, May 7, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 2nd instant, inclosing copy of an ordinance of the Neapolitan Government imposing a forced loan on the various classes of the community, and of a note to Marquis Dragonetti respecting the same, I have now the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith the reply which I have received from his Excellency, by which it is apparent that the Neapolitan Government design to exact this contribution from Her Majesty's subjects.

I am informed that the names of the British merchants are already inscribed on the lists of persons liable to the present imposition, though it has not been, up to the present moment, demanded from any of their number.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 172.

*The Marquis Dragonetti to Lord Napier.**Napoli, 6 di Maggio, 1848.*

IL Segretario di Stato della Finanza, cui il Sottoscritto, &c., senza indugio partecipò quanto con nota del 2 dello andante, nello interesse de' sudditi Inglesi qui dimoranti esponeasi da Lord Napier, &c., sul Real Decreto de' 26 Aprile ultimo, ha risposto al Sottoscritto ne' sensi che rilevansi dal foglio qui alligato.

Nel porgere egli in tal modo riscontro a enunciata nota di Lord Napier, ha l'onore, &c.

(Firmato)

L. MSE. DRAGONETTI.

(Translation.)

Naples, May 6, 1848.

THE Secretary of State of Finance, to whom the Undersigned, &c., communicated immediately the contents of the note of Lord Napier, &c., of the 2nd instant, in behalf of British subjects established here, respecting the Decree of the 26th ultimo, has transmitted the answer, which is herewith inclosed.

The Undersigned in thus replying to the above mentioned note of Lord Napier, avails himself, &c.

(Signed)

L. MARQUIS DRAGONETTI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 172.

Count Ferretti to the Marquis Dragonetti.

Eccellenza,

Napoli, 6 Maggio, 1848.

SULLA nota dell' Incaricato di Affari Britannico che mira a vedere esonerati i sudditi Inglesi dal concorrere allo imprestito forzoso proclamato col Real Decreto del 26 ora scorso mese, mi onoro osservare: Che l'Articolo III della Convenzione del 1845 promette due favori a' sudditi di Sua Maestà Britannica nel Regno delle Due Sicilie: l'uno di non essere obbligati a pagare altre tasse o imposte che quelle che pagansi dalle nazioni più favorite; l'altro che sieno essi esenti da prestiti forzosi e da ogni contribuzione straordinaria purchè non sia generale o stabilita per legge. Che rispetto al primo non si può intendere che siavi nello stato alcuna nazione più favorita della propria ed a nessuna nazione è stata finora accordata quell' esenzione di cui trattasi e da nessuna finora dimandata. Che in quanto al secondo il prestito forzoso è generale ed è stabilito per legge per tutti i commercianti senza eccettuarne alcuno e senza punto porre i sudditi di Sua Maestà Britannica in condizioni più gravi di quelle in cui sono stati posti gli altri commercianti nazionali e stranieri. Che da ultimo è da considerarsi ancora che il prestito ordinato non solamente è generale per tutti i commercianti e come tale da far verificare la condizione della convenzione, ma si estende ancora a tutte le classi dei nazionali essendo eccettuate soltanto le indigenti.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato delle Finanze,

(Signed)

C. FERRETTI.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Naples, May 6, 1848.

WITH respect to the note of Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, desiring that British subjects may be exempt from contributing to the forced loan which was proclaimed by Royal Decree on the 26th ultimo; I have the honour to make the following observations:

That Article III of the Convention of 1845 promises two privileges to British subjects residing in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies: the one, that they shall not be obliged to pay other taxes or imposts than those paid by the most favoured nations; and the other, that they shall be exempted from forced loans, and from every extraordinary contribution, unless it be general, or established by law.

That with regard to the first, it cannot be supposed that any State regards any nation more favourably than itself, and that up to this time the exemption claimed has never been accorded to any nation, nor by any hitherto demanded.

That with regard to the second, this forced loan is general, and established by law, and has been imposed on all merchants, without exception, and without placing Her Britannic Majesty's subjects in a worse position than that in which all the other merchants, both native and foreign, have been placed.

Lastly, that the said loan is not only general as regards all merchants, and as such, is perfectly in accordance with the Treaty, but also includes every class of Neapolitan subjects, excepting only the indigent.

The Minister Secretary of State of Finance,
(Signed) FERRETTI.

No. 173.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord,

Naples, May 16, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Messina informing me that an attempt had been made to compel foreign subjects resident at that port to enter the National Guard.

I have addressed to Mr. Barker the accompanying instruction directing him to resist the imposition of such orders on Her Majesty's subjects, and I have written to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo to obtain from M. Stabile that instructions be sent to Messina declaring Her Majesty's subjects free from the obligation to serve in the force above mentioned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 173.

Consul Barker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Messina, May 8, 1848.

SINCE the meeting of Parliament at Palermo a circumstance has occurred ordering all foreigners to join the National Guard. Many of the British residents in Messina have been invited but have declined engaging in that service.

This morning written advertisements were stuck up about the town purporting that the National Guard will not guarantee the lives and property of foreigners who refuse to join that military body.

I beg your Lordship will instruct me how to act in this emergency.
(Signed) W. W. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 173.

Lord Napier to Consul Barker.

Sir,

Naples, May 13, 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 8th, acquainting me that Her Majesty's subjects resident at Messina having been invited in common with other foreigners to join the National Guard, have

refused to do so, and that advertisements have in consequence been posted to the effect that the National Guard will not guarantee the lives and property of foreigners who refuse to enrol themselves in their service.

You do not specify whether those advertisements were issued by the civic officers or any other persons in lawful exercise of authority or by the National Guard themselves; but in any case you will do well to call upon the functionary responsible for the peace of the city or the person with whom you are placed in correspondence under the present order of Government, and point his attention to the 3rd Article of the Commercial Convention of 1845 between Great Britain and Naples, by which Her Majesty's subjects are exempted "from all military service by land or sea," and under that Article claim an immunity for Her Majesty's subjects from the service of the National Guard.

The Government of Sicily is unquestionably bound by all the engagements contracted by that of Naples, and Her Majesty's Government will I apprehend insist on the fulfilment of the Treaty of 1845 in Sicily independent no less exactly than in Sicily subjected to the Neapolitan Government and Crown.

If the National Guard of Messina be constituted like that of Naples of those of other parts of Italy, it certainly appears to be a military body not only by its armament and array but by the nature of its discipline and regulations, which withdraw in certain respects its members from the common courts of law and subject them to summary arrests and punishments at the discretion of the superior officer. And were there any doubt of the military character of the National Guard under ordinary circumstances and in peaceful times, Messina is of all others a place at the present moment in which foreigners ought in the nature of things to hold aloof from entering that body, for it appears that hostilities might at any moment break out between the city and the fort, and in that contest not only the National Guard but the whole population would be employed and treated as active combatants, and Her Majesty's subjects might thus come to be involved in war with the troops of a Power with which Great Britain is on terms of friendship and alliance. Her Majesty's subjects cannot therefore be compelled to enlist in the National Guard of Messina, and should they voluntarily enter it they will do so on their responsibility and at their peril.

With regard to the menace held out by the advertisement to which you have alluded you will have the goodness to bring under the notice of the authority from which it emanated, if indeed it were an act of authority, how impolitic and unworthy it would be to withdraw the protection of the National Guard from foreigners at a moment when all the efforts of the new Government ought to be directed to the restoration of confidence and industry and to conciliate the esteem of foreign Powers and their subjects, who by their countenance and commerce are enabled to contribute so materially to the welfare if not the existence of Sicily.

I hope to learn that the advertisement above mentioned will be disclaimed by the authorities at Messina and that they will continue to afford Her Majesty's subjects that protection which they have hitherto enjoyed and which they have repaid by corresponding benefits; but lest this should not prove to be the case I have directed Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo to remonstrate with M. Stabile respecting the pretensions advanced at Messina that Her Majesty's subjects are to serve in the National Guard and the threat involved in the publication of the subsequent manifesto.

You are empowered to read this instruction in Italian to the functionaries at Messina whom it may principally concern and communicate it to the officer in command of Her Majesty's vessels of war on the station.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord,

Naples, May 16, 1848.

IN conformity with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 24th of April, I waited on the 14th instant on Marquis Dragonetti and imparted to his Excellency in presence of the President of the Council, the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government in respect to the affairs of Sicily. I told his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government had learned with regret that the King of Naples had not acceded to any of the successive proposals of the Sicilians during the time of the Earl of Minto's presence at Naples and at Palermo, and I informed the Minister that the Government of Naples would expect in vain from Great Britain any assistance in the coercion or subjugation of Sicily, while any succour from the part of Russia would be problematical and at best inadequate to the strength which the Sicilian insurgents would in such a contingency be probably enabled to derive from France. I also reported to Marquis Dragonetti that Her Majesty's Government did not recognise in the CIVth Article of the Treaty of Vienna a guarantee of Sicily to the Crown of Naples, but merely a recognition of the King by a style which nothing prevented His Majesty from altering should he have occasion to do so.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs replied that the CIVth Article of the Treaty of Vienna did not contain any express guarantee, but that the whole Treaty, from its nature, as the great territorial settlement of Europe, involved a general guarantee and obligation of mutual assistance on the part of the Powers who signed it towards each other and those interested by its separate provisions.

To this I replied I was surprised that with such sentiments the Government of which his Excellency was a member, could deem itself justified in the invasion of the Imperial territory.

His Excellency pleaded as usual the necessity of the case and the force of external pressure.

I then begged to be informed of the views and projects of the Government of Naples in respect to their future relations with Sicily.

He answered that the subject would be brought under discussion in the approaching Parliament at an early period, and that according to their information from Sicily it might yet be possible to negotiate the election of a Neapolitan Prince to the Throne of that country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.—(Received June 1.)

Sir,

Admiralty, May 30, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated the 14th instant, reporting the state of affairs at Palermo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 175.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Hibernia," Malta, May 14, 1848.

I INCLOSE a copy of Captain Robb's last report of the passing events at Palermo.

Inclosure 2 in No. 175.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Gladiator," Palermo, May 10, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you by the "Palermo" steam vessel which sails to-night for Malta, that a demonstration against the Provisional Government here took place on Sunday, and a demand was made for the resignation of some of the Ministers; on the next day the whole of the Ministers resigned, but the majority of the people prevailed on them to resume their places, all of whom with the exception of Calvi and Pisani, Ministers of War and of the Interior, retained their appointments, and the Marquis of Cerda and Signor Luccoli have been chosen Ministers of War and of the Interior.

It is supposed that this demonstration (having been put down) has strengthened the Government, and the instigators of the outcry against it (about 100) are to be sent to Naples.

The steward of the Duchy of Bronte has been reinstated and the guilty party sent to Catania for trial.

To-morrow an investigation is to take place into the circumstances that led to the murder of the quartermaster of this ship, and I shall use every endeavour to bring the murderer to justice.

Robberies are daily taking place here, and until the people return to their several professions and lay down their arms, tranquillity in my opinion cannot be looked for.

The "Palermo" will return to this port in a few days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN ROBB.

No. 176.

Mr. Merivale to Mr. Addington.—(Received June 10.)

Sir,

Colonial Office, June 8, 1848.

I AM directed by Earl Grey to transmit to you for the consideration of Viscount Palmerston the copy of a despatch from the Governor of Malta, forwarding a petition from M. Vincenzo Bugeja praying to be recognized as Sicilian Consul in that island, and I am to request that you would move his Lordship to inform Lord Grey of the nature of the answer which should be returned to this application.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HERMAN MERIVALE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 176.

The Governor of Malta to Earl Grey.

My Lord,

Malta, May 15, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a petition (with a translation into English) which I have recently received from M. Vincenzo Bugeja, a respectable merchant of this place, praying to be recognized as Sicilian Consul at Malta in virtue of an appointment from the Provisional Government of that island.

The Sicilians resorting to Malta will not under existing circumstances have recourse to the assistance of the Consul of the Two Sicilies, and it is very desirable that some person should be appointed to look after their commercial interests in this island; but I am unwilling to recognise any Consular Agent named by the Provisional Government of Sicily without your Lordship's previous knowledge and concurrence, and I have therefore to solicit your Lordship's instructions how I am to act in respect to the accompanying petition.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. MORE O'FERRALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 176.

Petition of M. Vincenzo Bugeja.

Espone,

ESSER egli stato già da tempo incaricato dal Governo Provvisorio di Sicilia delle incombenze Consolari di quel paese presso questo Governo.

Il ricorrente produrrebbe all' occorrenza i documenti ufficiali di tale sua nomina provvisoria.

Essersi egli astenuto di officiare nella qualità a cui è appuntato, prima che il Governo dal quale è nominato non fosse riconosciuto.

Tale ricognizione però differita, il corso degli affari e delle relazioni commerciali di quelln con questo paese trovarsi frattanto inceppato, per la deficienza d' un ufficio Consolare legalmente riconosciuto da questo Governo.

Essergli stato insinuato da parecchi dei membri costituenti quel Governo, e nominatamente dal Barone Riso, di chiedere a questo Gvernno un' autorizzazione a poter incominciare provvisoriamente le funzioni della sua carica.

Prega vostra Eccellenza perchè si degnasse abilitarlo alle funzioni delle quali è incaricato, e conferire ciò ai rispettivi uffici, come altri Governi hanno già praticato sul proposito.

(Translation.)

Sheweth,

THAT since some time he has been charged by the Provisional Government of Sicily with the Consular duties of that country near this Government.

The petitioner, if need be, would produce the official documents of such his provisional appointment.

That he has abstained from acting in the capacity to which he has been appointed before the Government by which he has been appointed should be recognised.

But owing to the delay of such recognition, the progress of business and commercial relations between that country and this is in the meantime shackled, from the want of a Consular Office legally recognised by this Government.

That it has been suggested to him by several of the Constituent Members of the Sicilian Government, and especially by Baron Riso, to ask to be authorized by this Government to commence to discharge the functions of his office provisionally.

He prays your Excellency to vouchsafe to authorize him to discharge the duties intrusted to him, and to intimate such authorisation to the respective offices, as other Governments have already done.

No. 177.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 13, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 10th ultimo, inclosing an instruction which you had addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Messina on the subject of the attempt made to force British subjects to serve in the National Guard, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve of the course pursued by you on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 178.

Mr. Addington to Mr. Merivale.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 17, 1848.

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th instant, requesting to be furnished for the information of Earl Grey with Lord Palmerston's opinion as to the nature of the reply which should be returned by the Governor of Malta to a petition from M. Vincenzo Bugeja praying to be recognised as Sicilian Consul in Malta; I am directed by his Lordship to inform you that this person might be allowed to act so that commercial inconvenience might be prevented; but it would not be expedient formally to acknowledge him as Consul for Sicily as a State separate from the Kingdom of Naples, until the Sicilian Parliament shall have finally determined what Prince to choose to be the Sovereign of Sicily.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. U. ADDINGTON.

No. 179.

Prince Castelvicala to Viscount Palmerston.

15, *Princes Street, Cavendish Square,*
June 17, 1848.

PRINCE CASTELCICALA presents his compliments to Viscount Palmerston, and begs to inclose copies of the despatches the Prince had the honour to submit to his Excellency at his last interview with him.

Inclosure in No. 179.

* *Despatch received by Prince Castelvicala.**Napoli, 27 Maggio, 1848.*

DIVERSE provincie dell' Isola di Sicilia non hanno ancora nettamente aderito all' atto illegale della separazione da Napoli, nè quel Governo Provvisorio può riguardarsi come costituito per fatto, non essendovi il concorso e la unanimità della intera isola.

Ella pertanto nel portare questi fatti a cognizione di Lord Palmerston, gli esponderà la fiducia del Real Governo che non vorrà egli pensare ad alcun atto di riconoscimento di quell' informe Governo Provvisorio, se prima la volontà complessiva di tutta la Sicilia non concorra allo atto illegale, e che gli affari d'Italia non sieno ultimati.

(Translation.)

Naples, May 27, 1848.

SEVERAL provinces of the Island of Sicily have not yet clearly expressed their adhesion to the illegal act of separation from Naples, nor can that Provisional Government be regarded as constituted *de facto*, the concurrence and unanimity of the whole island not yet existing.

In bringing these facts to the knowledge of Lord Palmerston, you will therefore express to his Lordship the confidence of the Royal Government that he will not determine on any act of recognition of that informal Provisional Government without the previous concurrence of the united will of all Sicily in the illegal act, and until the affairs of Italy shall be conclusively arranged.

* The other despatches do not relate to the affairs of Sicily.

No. 180.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 18.)

(Extract.)

Naples, June 1, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, containing an account tolerably encouraging of the state of the country, of public feeling and of the energy of the Government in the repression of internal disorders.

The accompanying despatch from Mr. Goodwin of the 29th of May states that the popularity of the King of Sardinia is on the decline and that the Parliament seemed disposed to favour the Archduke Charles of Tuscany in preference to the Duke of Genoa as a candidate for the Throne.

Many Sicilians are disinclined and perhaps with reason to an alliance with a growing and ambitious State which might pretend to a greater influence in their concerns than is consistent with a perfect independence.

Inclosure 1 in No. 180.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, May 22, 1848.

THE internal state of Sicily bids fair to be satisfactory.

Petty larcenies in town and highway robberies in the country are but too common, but burglaries and abductions have ceased to be committed.

Catania indeed has been the scene of a dreadful tragedy. A band of 100 armed men, mostly liberated felons, fired in the night of the 11th on the customs officers and municipal guards who were going in search of smugglers and killed one of their number. The General Committee required them to give up their arms, met with a refusal and determined to take measures against them. An imposing force composed of the troops of the line and the national and municipal guards marched against them with four pieces of cannon, put them to flight and killed about twenty of their number. The fugitives were for the most part taken and put to death, inasmuch that the band was dispersed and exterminated. It had become so formidable to the well-disposed that strong measures were necessary to be taken; it is to be regretted however that violence was used as the desired result might have been attained with far less bloodshed.

In the meantime the troops of the line, amounting to about 4000 men, are going on with the drill. Clothes and accoutrements for the whole body are in active preparation. The National Guard, 8000 strong, and about half armed with muskets and half with swords, does the duty of the Chambers and public offices with zeal and discretion.

The statement in the "Nouvelliste" of Marseilles ("Galignani," 6th May, 2nd column, 5th page), that "the Provisional Government of Palermo has sacrificed everything to its dream of nationality," is as idle as is the assertion that "Sicily has become divided into two camps;" a division which it is said "broke out immediately after the decision of the Sicilian Parliament relative to the complete separation of the two countries."

Had the Government not made the nationality of Sicily its first object it would have lost its hold of the nation completely and for ever. What strikes the observer as most remarkable is the absence of party spirit. In neither Chamber is there anything like a Ministerial or Opposition party; all seem animated by a common desire to promote the public good without regard to self-interest.

The report of Romeo is a tissue of mistakes and misrepresentations. Not only have Messina, Syracuse, and the whole coast of the Faro never protested against the decree of the Parliament as here stated, but they have signified their concurrence in its tenor. The foremost men in the

debate of the 13th April were the representatives of Faro, whose conduct their constituents have approved and applauded. La Farina of Messina moved that an Italian Prince be called to the Sicilian Throne. Camazza of Catania invited the Peers to concur with the Commons; and Vigo Fuccio of Aci Reale was the first to put his signature to the decree of deposition.

Neither have the cities of the Faro accepted the Constitution of the 29th January; they have rejected it immediately in common with the rest of the island.

Lastly, no battalions of Calabrese have come over to Messina to fraternize with the people and to march against Palermo as stated in this report.

Inclosure 2 in No. 180.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, May 27, 1848.

THE failure of the rising in Naples has led the Sicilians to show their sympathy for the Neapolitans by celebrating a mass for the slain and by dispatching an expedition to Calabria to assist the insurgent population. The former took place on the Marina on the 25th instant in the presence of the Parliament, the Members of the Government and the whole of the National Guard; the latter occurred on the evening before, when about 400 volunteers embarked for Milazzo under the command of revolutionary officers with the known intention of marching overland to Messina and thence crossing over to Reggio to attack the fortified camp which holds communication with the citadel of Messina, and then to assist the insurgent Calabrese in their proposed advance on Naples.

May 29.

The commanders of the volunteers finding on their arrival at Milazzo that Paola and Pizzo had revolted came back to Palermo on the 27th and returned to Milazzo with fresh instructions yesterday morning. It is now understood that the force will proceed from Milazzo to the coast of Calabria direct, where its future operations will be determined by events and circumstances.

The high popularity of Charles Albert is already on the wane. A report from Treviso, where La Masa and his crusaders are encamped, says that Charles Albert no longer content with the Lombard territory in addition to his own aims at obtaining the Venetian also. Statesmen object to the design on the ground that Charles Albert, ruler of eight millions and a half out of twenty-two would endanger the liberties of the Italian population; churchmen, that Charles Albert, master of the Polesena or territory between the Adige and the Po, would threaten the independence of the Pope; and political economists, that Charles Albert, possessed of Genoa and Venice, would be able to shut out Sicilian wheat and oil from the markets of Lombardy and give a monopoly to the produce of the Sardinian States, insular and continental. Peers and Commons, feeling the weight of these objections, seem disposed to favour the youthful Archduke Charles of Tuscany rather than the Duke of Genoa as a candidate for the Sicilian Throne.

On the 26th Signor Stabile applied to the Commons for new instructions in consequence of Charles Albert's supposed intention to extend his dominions east of the Adige and of the wish of the Venetians to place themselves under his Government. A debate ensued on the propriety of producing despatches, the result of which was that it was determined that the Minister should make a report without producing the despatches. It is said that the latter report the formation of a Republican party at Milan opposed to the incorporation of Lombardy with the Sardinian States.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 181.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 18.)

My Lord,

Naples, June 1, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship of May 16, I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a report from Mr. Barker, stating that the authorities of Messina have abandoned their intention to require the service of foreigners in the National Guard of that city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 181.

Consul Barker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Messina, May 19, 1848.

REFERRING to your Lordship's instruction of the 12th instant I have to state that the written notices alluded to in my despatch of the 8th May, were issued on the part of the National Guard but signed by the people. They tended very much to excite a great ill-feeling against British subjects residing in Messina.

On the 14th I called on the Commissioner of the Executive power and read to him in the Italian language your Lordship's instructions. He assured me that foreigners would not be compelled to enlist in the National Guard, and that their lives and property will be protected so far as on him depends from molestation.

On the 15th instant I communicated to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo the result of my interview with the Commissioner of the Executive power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. W. BARKER.

No. 182.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 18.)

(Extract.)

Naples, June 5, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch under date of April 27th, by which Her Majesty's Consul at Messina acquainted me that he had appointed a Commission to scrutinize the claims of British subjects to indemnification for the losses of property by the burning of the Porto Franco of that city.

Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" obligingly consented to assist in the inquiry.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Consul Barker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Messina, April 27, 1848.

YOUR Lordship's despatch of the 18th instant has been received, giving me authority to nominate three British merchants or other judicious persons, to constitute with my son Robert and Captain Codrington, a Commission for the scrutiny of the accounts for the losses sustained by British subjects through the bombardment of the Porto Franco of Messina.

The inclosed letter will show your Lordship Captain Codrington's acquiescence in the project of scrutinizing the claims.

I have appointed Messrs William O. Aveline, Alphonso Matthey and Henry Newton Rew, who have already entered into the examination of the accounts, and I shall forward to Her Majesty's Legation the particulars of each case in conformity with your Lordship's instructions.

I inclose four further claims as a matter of form for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. W. BARKER.

No. 183.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 18.)

My Lord,

Naples, June 7, 1848.

IN consequence of the tenor of Mr. Goodwin's despatches submitted to your Lordship in my despatch of the 1st instant, and from private intelligence received by Her Majesty's Legation from another source, I had reason to believe that the deliberations of the Sicilian Parliament in respect to the choice of a Prince to fill the throne of that island would shortly issue in some resolution interesting to Her Majesty's Government; I therefore delayed the departure of the Queen's messenger and requested Captain Codrington to detach Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Porcupine" to Palermo for the purpose of obtaining for your Lordship information of the opinions of the Parliament and the country on that important question.

Mr. Fagan, attached to Her Majesty's Legation, availed himself of this occasion to visit Palermo and communicate with Her Majesty's Consul, M. Stabile, and several persons engaged in public affairs. Her Majesty's ship "Porcupine" also visited Messina on the way back to Naples.

I am enabled to lay before your Lordship the accompanying reports from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, together with a statement from Mr. Fagan of the impressions derived by him from his intercourse with the Sicilians, all of which I shall leave open for the perusal of Her Majesty's Ministers at Florence and Turin, in the hope that with their reflections your Lordship will obtain a general prospect of the position of Sicily in its relations with the other Italian States.

It would seem that the Parliament of that nation are bent upon completing the modifications of their political Constitution before sharing the legislative functions with a Sovereign, and your Lordship might thus have time to deliver to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo further instructions with reference to the subject matter of your Lordship's confidential despatch to Mr. Abercromby, which Mr. Goodwin has not as yet imparted to the Sicilian Government and which he thinks it might be desirable to retain until the inclinations of the Parliament towards the House of Savoy be better defined, or until he be directly authorized to that effect by your Lordship's orders.

It appears to me however, especially with reference to Mr. Fagan's report, that a greater delay in the communication of the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government might induce the Sicilians to embrace Republican principles, which are in reality still repugnant to the temper of the whole people, and I have therefore forwarded to Mr. Goodwin the accompanying despatch which will I trust be found consistent with the policy of Her Majesty's Government and with the spirit of your Lordship's instruction to Her Majesty's Minister at Turin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 183.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, June 3, 1848.

THE report of the Minister for Foreign Affairs made on the 29th and 30th instant to the Commons and Peers successively, provoked no discussion in either Chamber. It contained nothing more on Italian affairs than what the papers have told us already. Three passages only concerned England, the first of which was an *on dit*, the second a vague surmise, and the third a fact of no great importance. 1. England it was said had furnished able seamen to the Austrian squadron blockading Venice to supply the place of Italian deserters. 2. Austria was supposed to be ready to coalesce with England to bring about a general peace. And 3. Lord Minto it was stated had been extremely reserved with the Sicilian Envoys, and unwilling to give them letters of introduction to Lord Palmerston. Questioned by the Peers and Deputies about the first of these passages I said that the statement was unfounded, as England I believed had taken no other part than that of recognizing the blockade as a matter of course.

As to the second I refrained from discrediting what I hoped to be true.

A political society called the "Opposition Club" which musters about sixty members, has lately distinguished itself by the virulence of its attacks on the Minister of War. Prince Paterno was accused of having neglected to purchase muskets in England, of having secretly sent arms and ammunition out of the Castellamare, and of having treacherously recalled a portion of the force from Milazzo.

All these and other accusations were fully refuted by him in a report to the Commons which was attentively and favourably received. He showed that the supply of arms was not to be had immediately in England or France, that the warlike stores had been openly sent to Messina, and that none but superfluous volunteers had been recalled from Milazzo. An energetic proclamation put forth by the Government has directed public resentment against the authors of the groundless charges.

On the 29th of May Signor Stabile applied to the Commons on behalf of Commodore Reid for leave for the American squadron to winter in the harbour of Syracuse and to store their provisions on shore, amid general applause.

The next day the same application was made to the Peers, when it was stated to have been made by the Commodore to the President of the Committee at Syracuse in the first instance.

A discussion then arose as to having a formal message from the Executive Power at the instance of the American Consul, which led to a resolution that the Government should be authorized to grant the desired permission in the handsomest manner.

It was mentioned in the course of the debate that Mr. Pinekney applied in 1816 to the Neapolitan Government for leave for the Americans to winter in Syracuse, which was readily granted, but that when he applied for a plot of ground whereon to erect magazines he met with a refusal.

Substituting Agosta for Syracuse this statement is correct.

On the 2nd instant the mixed Committee of Peers and Commons made its report on the reform of the Statute (or Constitution of 1812). The report, which was long, met with marked and general censure. Murmurs of dissent and disapproval burst forth from all parties, who signified their intention of rejecting it altogether. It was at first a question whether it should be printed, but the printing was at length resolved on, and ordered to be completed by to-morrow, 5th June. The chief author of the report is Sanlocaale, an advocate. Corlova, another advocate and one of the best speakers in the Commons, opposed it without effect in the Mixed Committee of which he was a member; his opposition will be renewed in the Chamber, and probably with signal effect. Amari, the historian of the "Vespers," and now Minister of Finance, openly disapproved of the report

in general and in detail. Two articles in particular are strongly disliked one declaring that no other religion than the Roman Catholic shall be tolerated in Sicily; and the other preventing not only foreigners but the sons of foreigners from being naturalized in Sicily. It is the wish of the Commons to throw the doors open to foreigners without distinction of race or creed, as widely as possible.

Not less than two months or six weeks at any rate must elapse before the reform of the Statute can be brought to completion. Until that object is attained the choice of a King will be not so much as thought of in the Commons.

Inclosure 2 in No. 183.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, June 3, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of 2nd June, directing me to express to M. Stabile your Lordship's sense of the promptitude with which he met the wishes of the British Legation with regard to the exemption of Her Majesty's subjects at Messina from the National Guard.

Your Lordship's directions shall be followed as soon as M. Stabile who is at present indisposed shall be sufficiently recovered to give me an audience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 183.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, June 4, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 2nd June expressing your Lordship's belief that the deliberations of Parliament would shortly issue in some resolution relative to the choice of a Prince to fill the Throne of Sicily, or at least that the report of the Minister for Foreign Affairs would disclose matter of interest to Her Majesty's Government.

The choice of a Prince appears to be more distant than ever, and nothing beyond what is contained in my despatch of yesterday's date is to be found in the report on Foreign Affairs.

With regard to the choice of a King your Lordship will find from the conclusion of my despatch of the 3rd that until the reform of the Statute be completed the subject will not occupy the attention of the Commons. Before the late report was presented, speculation was rife in both Chambers as to the choice of a King, and not only were the Duke of Genoa and Archduke Charles of Tuscany mentioned as before, but the Prince of Canino and the Duke of Leuchtenberg were brought upon the carpet. The latter it seems was born at Milan and as such is deemed to be an Italian Prince.

No sooner had Charles Albert advanced to the Adige than the Duke of Genoa declined in favour, and when Venice adhered to his father he ceased to be a favourite at all. It was not however until Charles Albert incorporated Parma and Piacenza with the Sardinian States, that the Duke of Genoa became an object of jealousy. Such has he been for the last fortnight, and within the last few days his unpopularity has risen to a climax.

Some go so far as to suggest a league of Southern Italy to counter-balance northern preponderance, and but for the hatred entertained of Naples this vague idea would probably be shaped into something like a project.

Inclosure 4 in No. 183.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, June 4, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 2nd June conveying to me your Lordship's approval of the language holden by me to M. Stabile and others on the Calabrian expedition. This Government I am inclined to think was not disposed to identify itself with the Republican party at Naples, and was forced into taking the course which I strongly deprecated, by a pressure from without in Palermo and Messina.

Your Lordship's doubts whether the Sicilians would be welcomed by the Calabrians are shared by a deputy who has known the latter from his youth upwards.

An invasion from Naples is not an object of apprehension. The Neapolitans are well aware that the attempt would be strenuously resisted by the whole population. Add to this we know from Desaget's pamphlets and De Majo's letters, that they are too much demoralized to be brought into the field with any prospect of success.

Inclosure 5 in No. 183.

Mr. Fagan to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, June 4, 1848.

IN pursuance of your Lordship's instructions on my arrival at Palermo I immediately called upon Mr. Goodwin and was informed by him that the Sicilians had not as yet taken any steps respecting the choice of a King. The announcement made by M. Stabile to the House of Commons that he would shortly make known the result of the negotiations of the Sicilian diplomatic agents had no reference to the election of a Sovereign; but on the day appointed he merely read a report on the present state of Italy showing the changes that had lately taken place in the policy of some of the Italian Governments and the difficulties that existed in forming now an Italian league, owing in part to the ambitious views of the King of Sardinia, and to a supposed alliance between England and Austria. Mr. Goodwin in the course of conversation expressed his opinion that the Sicilians will not proceed to the choice of a King until they have reformed their Constitution, and that therefore it would be premature at present to make known Lord Palmerston's confidential instruction on that subject.

I saw M. Stabile in the course of the evening and expressed to him your sense of what the Sicilian Government had done for the protection of Lord Bridport's property and for the promptitude with which orders had been given exempting British subjects from serving in the national guard. I then explained to him that the reason why the Sicilians had excited the sympathies of other Governments was only because they had been consistent in their conduct, and now that they have adopted the Constitution of 1812 as the best suited to them, their efforts ought to be directed to the preservation of that form of Government without being influenced by what may take place in other countries. I observed how dangerous it would be to listen to the counsels of Republican agitators, who by dividing parties and creating disorders, would injure their cause at a time when their object ought to be to appear united and strong.

M. Stabile appeared to agree fully with what I said and told me moreover that the Neapolitan refugees to whom I had alluded had landed in Calabria after having touched at Messina. He assured me that the idea of their wishing to establish a republic is not to be entertained, since the whole nation is opposed to it, and all the intrigues of Republican emissaries would prove fruitless.

With respect to the expedition to Calabria, M. Stabile stated that it only consisted of 600 volunteers from Palermo and a few more from Messina and Catania, with a company of artillerymen, and that their object is not to march into the interior but merely to co-operate on the Calabrian side with the Sicilian forces at Messina in their operations against the citadel.

The Sicilians are now labouring under great difficulties. Notwithstanding that the land-tax is paid in part and that the customs give a certain revenue, the finances are far from flourishing, and they are in want of arms which cannot easily be procured. The National Guard is the body of men who by their courage, activity, and zeal, have succeeded in preserving public tranquillity, and their influence and power increase every day, but still they complain of the heavy duties that the circumstances in which they are placed oblige them to perform.

The result of my inquiries with regard to the views of the Parliament and Ministers as to the choice of the King is, that all classes of people from the peasant to the nobleman are most anxious that a Sovereign should be proclaimed as soon as possible as the only way of putting an end to their precarious situation.

Opinions are divided as to the qualifications of the son of the Duke of Tuscany and those of the Duke of Genoa. Some think that the growing power of the King of Sardinia is a decided objection to the election of one of his sons, as in that case they would be reduced again to the condition of a province.

On the other hand they say that the connexion with the House of Savoy would be an advantage, as in case of war with Naples they are sure to obtain the powerful assistance and support of the King of Sardinia. The choice of the son of the Grand Duke of Tuscany does not inspire them with any fear respecting their independence, but they think that he is too weak a Prince to offer any resistance to the King of Naples. On one point however they unanimously agree, and that is, that if England mentions the Prince that she is most inclined to recognize they would immediately waive all objections and make the offer, even if that Prince should not happen to belong to an Italian family. In fact everybody with whom I had an opportunity of speaking on the subject, seem to entertain the idea that it is impossible for them to come to any decision until they know the intentions of the British Government, the recognition of their independence by the greatest maritime Power being absolutely necessary for their political existence. They appear in fact to be determined not to name any Prince without ascertaining first that their choice will meet with the approbation of the English Cabinet; and I have no doubt from my experience of the Sicilian character that with the exception of a son of the King of Naples, any other Prince named by England would immediately be proclaimed. Before the events of the 15th of May, which in Sicily are represented in a light very unfavourable to the King, a small party perhaps existed who would have accepted one of His Majesty's children, but now it appears certain that that plan of accommodation would meet with the most decided opposition, so much so that it would be dangerous for an indifferent person to make the suggestion.

Inclosure 6 in No. 183.

Lord Napier to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Naples, June 7, 1848.

ON due consideration of your despatches transmitted by Mr. Fagan and of a report addressed to me by that gentleman, I am induced to believe that the present is a favourable moment for communicating confidentially to M. Stabile the instruction of Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Abercromby relative to the resolution of Her Majesty's Government in the contingency of the election of the Duke of Genoa to the Throne of Sicily.

In doing so it would be prudent to explain that Her Majesty's Government, having failed in an arrangement by which the Crown of

Sicily should remain united to that of Naples, with due regard always to the separate institutions of the former nation, and having also been unable to obtain the consent at the proper time of the King of Naples to the election of one of his sons as their Sovereign, is now principally animated by a desire to see the welfare of Sicily secured and consolidated by the establishment of a Throne based on the affections of the whole people. The British Government in naming particularly the Duke of Genoa is doubtless far from desiring to force the selection of that Prince. It is sufficiently apparent from the spirit of Viscount Palmerston's instruction, that Her Majesty's Government has not at heart the promotion or aggrandisement of one reigning House in preference to another, but solely desires the settlement of Sicily, the restoration of peace, the reconstruction of society and monarchical government. Should the Parliament of Sicily deem themselves better able to secure those advantages by seeking a King in another reigning family of Italy, whether their inclinations should spontaneously revert to the family of Naples or turn to that of Florence, it may be presumed that Her Majesty's Government would extend to the Sovereign of their choice the same consideration which they are prepared to concede to the Duke of Genoa, and that he would, in the terms of Viscount Palmerston's despatch, "at the proper time and when in possession of the Sicilian Throne, be acknowledged by Her Majesty the Queen."

The difficulties and temptations by which the Government of Sicily is beset, and the motives which might be offered to induce them to swerve from their attachment to monarchical institutions, must not be lost sight of; and I think it would be expedient in the present emergency that the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government on this momentous subject should no longer be concealed from those whom they so deeply concern.

With respect to the time and manner of communicating Viscount Palmerston's instruction you are better able to judge than I am, but it seems to me that it would be most convenient if you should ask for an interview with M. Ruggiero Settimo in the presence of M. Stabile, and read to them confidentially Viscount Palmerston's despatch in the Italian language without giving them a copy of it, and it may be hoped that the discretion which characterises the President of the kingdom will lead him to make a prudent and judicious use of the information thus imparted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 184.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 18.)

My Lord,

Naples, June 7, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter from Mr. Goodwin, in answer to a communication in which I desired to know his sentiments regarding the possibility of the election of a Prince of the Neapolitan Family to the Throne of Sicily, in case the Houses of Sardinia and Florence should not entertain the proposals of the Sicilian Parliament.

Mr. Goodwin is of opinion that the disposition of the Sicilians is materially altered towards the Duke of Genoa. Mr. Fagan's impression does not go to the same extent; but in the contingency that the King of Sardinia should be found no longer to possess the confidence of the Sicilians, and should the Grand Duke of Tuscany, which is more than probable, refuse their overtures, it seems possible that the Sicilians might by necessity revert to the family of the King of Naples.

At the present moment however their animosity is great.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 184.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, June 4, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of 2nd of June, giving me directions for my guidance.

I will first endeavour to ascertain what has been the result of the overtures at Florence and Turin, and then make inquiry about the King's son. I apprehend, my Lord, that whatever may have been the result of those overtures the disposition of the Sicilians is materially altered towards the Duke of Genoa, as your Lordship will gather from my other despatch of this date, and that at present it would be useless to bring forward a Neapolitan Prince without first ascertaining whether such a one would be given by the King on the condition that Sicily were separated from Naples.

No. 185.

Sir George Hamilton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 18.)

(Extract.)

Florence, June 11, 1848.

LORD NAPIER having forwarded by the messenger Robbins his despatches addressed to your Lordship under flying-seal to me, I gather from their contents that the Crown of Sicily may be offered by the Sicilians to the Archduke Charles of Tuscany in preference to the Duke of Genoa.

The Grand Duke of Tuscany having been absent for a few days at Leghorn, I am unable to inform your Lordship what may be His Royal Highness's sentiments, should the choice of the Sicilians fall upon his youthful son.

I am happy to inform your Lordship that on the Grand Duke of Tuscany's recent visit to Leghorn, from whence he returns to-day, the strongest demonstrations of loyalty have been called forth in his favour, the well-disposed part of the inhabitants, both in that city and also at Pisa, having taken the opportunity of showing their sentiments.

With respect to the Neapolitan army in Romagna I have no official intelligence, but the general impression at Florence is that none of the troops of the line, whatever the volunteers may do, will cross the Po.

I cannot ascertain whether General Pepe has left Bologna, but it seems certain that he has not yet obeyed the King's orders to return to Naples.

The Tuscan Government has given great offence to the Neapolitan Legation at this Court, by publishing an official declaration in the Gazette, that if any Neapolitan troops should enter the Tuscan dominions in their way back to Naples, it will be considered an unwarrantable violation of territory.

No. 186.

The Hon. R. Abercromby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 18.)

(Extract.)

Turin, June 13, 1848

I HAVE made it my duty to inquire whether the Sicilian agents have in the course of their communications with the Sardinian Govern-

ment made any overtures relative to the offer of the Sicilian Crown to His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa.

I have been assured in terms distinct and explicit, that the question of offering to the Duke of Genoa the Sicilian Crown had never been touched upon by either of the Sicilian agents.

I have consequently said nothing to the Marquis Pareto on the subject of the instruction conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 8th ultimo, deeming it best to reserve the communication of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the acknowledgment of the Duke of Genoa, should he be disposed to accept of the proffered Crown, until it came to my knowledge that the offer had been actually made.

No. 187.

Mr. Merivale to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Colonial Office, June 21, 1848.

I AM directed by Earl Grey to transmit to you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Malta, reporting the circumstances under which he had allowed eight Neapolitan refugees to disembark from the French steamer "Pluton," and stating the reasons which had induced him to refuse to grant passports to those individuals for Sicily.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HERMAN MERIVALE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 187.

The Governor of Malta to Earl Grey.

My Lord,

Malta, May 26, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that the French steamer "Pluton" arrived here yesterday from Naples with eight refugees on board, persons prominently concerned in the insurrection of May 15. They had been taken on board by the French Admiral from motives of humanity. They wished to be landed in Sicily or Calabria, but this the Admiral declined from respect to the principle of strict neutrality in the internal dissensions of a friendly Power, as explained in his letter to the French Consul at Malta, copy of which is forwarded herewith. On their arrival here the Consul applied to me for permission for their reception, a request which in the case of persons arriving under such circumstances from a place where we have a resident Minister without recommendation or passport from that Minister, could not but create some difficulty; I however acceded to it after due consideration, informing the Consul that the reason which justified me in doing so was my anxious wish not to thwart the course taken by Admiral Baudin respecting these persons with a view to that strict neutrality which it was so important that France and England should conjointly preserve. They were accordingly permitted to land. In the course of the day they applied for passports to proceed to Sicily, but this request in accordance with the principle followed by the French Admiral in sending them hither and acted on by me in admitting them, was necessarily for the time declined. A renewed application was expected this morning, but it appears that seven of the number left the island clandestinely without passports the same night in all probability for Sicily. The leader remains here for the present. He applied to me personally this morning for a passport to Sicily, but on his positively declining to state that it was not his intention in going there to levy war

on the King of Naples, I felt bound to act in strict furtherance of the principle so justly enforced by Admiral Baudin in his conduct towards these persons, and refused the passport.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. MORE O'FERRALL.

Inclosure 2 to No. 187.

Admiral Baudin to the French Consul at Malta.

Monsieur,

"*Friedland*," *Rade de Naples*, 23 Mai, 1848.

J'AI reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 5 de ce mois. Je vous remercie des renseignemens qu'elle renferme, et je vous serai reconnaissant de tous ceux que vous voudrez bien prendre la peine de m'adresser à l'avenir.

Le "*Pluton*" que j'envoie aujourd'hui à Malte, y porte une partie des réfugiés Napolitains qui ont été contraints à la suite de l'insurrection du 15 Mai de chercher asile sur l'escadre. Ils auraient souhaité que je les convoyasse en Sicile ou en Calabre; je m'y suis refusé par respect pour le principe de stricte neutralité qui nous est imposé dans toutes les querelles intérieures des autres pays, et je les envoie à Malte d'où leur intention me paraît être de rentrer dans leur patrie. Je les recommande instamment à votre plus bienveillant accueil.

Je vous serai obligé de vouloir bien me faire connaître ce que vous saurez ultérieurement de la destination et du sort de chacun d'eux.

Recevez, &c.

Le Vice-Amiral, &c.
(Signé) C. BAUDIN.

P.S.—Je viens d'écrire à mon ami le Vice-Amiral Sir William Parker, pour recommander à sa bienveillance ces réfugiés. J'espère que si leur débarquement rencontrerait quelques obstacles, il voudrait bien contribuer avec vous à les lever.

(Translation.)

Sir,

"*Friedland*," *Naples Roads*, May 23, 1848.

I HAVE received the letter which you did me the honour to write to me on the 5th instant. I thank you for the intelligence which it contains, and I shall be grateful to you for all that you will have the goodness to take the trouble of addressing to me hereafter.

The "*Pluton*" which I send to day to Malta, conveys thither a portion of the Neapolitan refugees who have been compelled in consequence of the insurrection of the 15th of May, to seek an asylum on board the squadron. They would have wished that I had given them convoy to Sicily or to Calabria; I refused to do so out of regard for the principle of strict neutrality which is imposed upon us in all the internal quarrels of other countries, and I sent them to Malta, from whence it appears to me to be their intention to return to their country. I earnestly recommend them to your kindest reception.

I shall be obliged to you to have the goodness to apprise me of what you shall ultimately know of the destination and fate of each of them.

Receive, &c.

The Vice-Admiral, &c.
(Signed) C. BAUDIN.

P.S.—I have just written to my friend Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to recommend those refugees to his kindness. I hope if their landing should meet with any obstacles, that he will have the goodness to aid you in removing them.

No. 188.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 22.)

My Lord,

Naples, June 13, 1848.

IN conformity with the advice offered to him in my despatch to your Lordship of the 7th instant, Mr. Goodwin has communicated to the President of the Kingdom of Sicily and M. Stabile your Lordship's instruction to Mr. Abercromby relative to the election of a Prince to fill the Throne of that country.

M. Stabile imparted the substance of this information to the House of Commons, and the happy effect of that announcement, which was quickly followed by one of a similar character from the French Government, is described in the reports of Her Majesty's Consul inclosed to your Lordship herewith. The intelligence was conveyed to Messina, where it caused much satisfaction, and on the ensuing day it also became known in that city that the French Republic was prepared to recognize the independence of Sicily.

From private sources I am informed that the Republican party was gaining ground; and I am under the impression that the declaration of the course contemplated by Her Majesty's Government to the Parliament will have a favourable result in confirming the public tranquillity and strengthening the Monarchical interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inelosure 1 in No. 188.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, June 9, 1848.

THE printed report of the mixed Commission on the reform of the Statute referred to in my despatch of the 3rd instant begins by saying that the religion of the people having undergone no change, the first basis of the statute wherein it is declared that the Roman Catholic shall be the religion of the State to the exclusion of any other, and that the King who should profess any other shall be *ipso facto* dethroned, is preserved entire. It then goes on to state that the Legislative power being confided to the Deputies of the people, an absolute veto cannot be given to the King, and that the right of suspending the sittings or dissolving the Chambers is all that can be allowed him. The Chamber of Peers it is observed has been retained and the dignity of the Peerage has been annexed to the bishopricks of Sicily and to the office of Judge of the Monarchy and Apostolic Legate.

The two Chambers it is stated must concur in the formation of a law. The introduction of a law is common to both and also to the Executive, and the promulgation thereof belongs to the King.

Alluding to guarantees the report points out the liberty of the press and the institution of a National Guard as the best and surest safeguards of public liberty, and ends by recommending that these subjects should occupy the attention of Parliament in preference to that of the prerogatives of the Crown.

The debate on the basis of the proposed reforms began on the 8th instant. The order of the day having been read, Ondes Reggio rose and proposed that a declaration of the rights of man and the sovereignty of the people should be prefixed to the project. The motion was opposed by Santocanale, the author of the report, but well received by all others, and a lively discussion took place which two advocates who advised the post-

ponement of the proposed declaration brought to a satisfactory close. It was agreed in the end that the articles should be discussed one after the other.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inelasure 2 in No. 188.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, June 9, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of 7th June directing me to ask for an audience of D. Ruggiero Settimo and read to him confidentially Viscount Palmerston's despatch without giving him a copy of the same, and to state to his Excellency that it was hoped that his discretion would lead him to make a prudent and judicious use of the information thus imparted. Your Lordship's directions have been implicitly followed. Alive to the Republican temper of the Commons, and aware how desirable it was to prevent the Ministers from swerving from their attachment to Monarchical institutions, I sought and obtained this day an audience of the President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The letters were read first in English by me and then twice in Italian by M. Stabile to the President, who listened in deep silence and with earnest attention. The satisfaction afforded by Viscount Palmerston's declaration was somewhat damped by my declining to give a copy of the letter; but was greatly restored by my consenting to allow the Minister to communicate the substance of the letter to the Chambers. My consent was grounded on two considerations. First, a desire to set M. Stabile right with the Peers and Commons, by showing them that he was not pledged to the support of any particular candidate, as a rumour was abroad that he had sold himself to England to promote the election of the Duke of Leuchtenberg (confounded with the Prince of Leiningen), and that the dollars brought over for the merchants by the "Porcupine" and "Sidon" were the price of his conduct; and secondly, a wish to prevent the National Guard from becoming, as it threatened to become, an armed body overruling the Legislature by forestalling its intention of presenting a petition to the Chambers this day calling upon them to proceed to the election of a King without further delay. A precedent so dangerous to civil Government ought I conceived to be obviated by all possible means, and on this ground as much as, if not more than, the other, I consented that M. Stabile should communicate Lord Palmerston's sentiments in the way he should deem most meet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inelasure 3 in No. 188.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, June 10, 1848.

THE announcement of Lord Palmerston's instructions to the Chambers has been productive of the best results. The first article of the project wherein it is declared that the religion of the State shall be the Roman Catholic has been passed by a large majority without the clause "to the exclusion of any other," to the joy and satisfaction of the Sicilian public.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Articles on the unity of the Crown, the sovereignty of the nation, and the legislative power, have likewise been passed, and the remaining thirteen bid fair to be speedily dispatched.

The announcement of Lord Palmerston's intentions, which took place yesterday amidst a burst of applause, has ushered in a similar announcement from M. Lamartine this day with the like enthusiasm. France will recognise Sicily as soon as the latter shall have reformed her statute, and in the meantime she will send hither a Chargé d'Affaires and direct her steamers to call at Messina on their passage to and from Malta.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 188.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, June 11, 1848.

MY despatches of the 9th and 10th instant are gone by French steamer to Naples via Messina. My despatches of the 9th give an abstract of the printed report on reforms of the Statute, and an account of my communicating Lord Palmerston's instructions and your Lordship's despatch, without giving copies, to MM. Stabile and Settimo; and that of the 10th relates to Signor Stabile's communication to the Chambers of Lord Palmerston's intentions and M. Lamartine's declaration. The latter are much the same as the former. A French Chargé d'Affaires is to be sent hither shortly. The second son of the Grand Duke of Tuscany is rising in public favour, and had not his father shrunk from being the first to acknowledge the Sicilian Government he would have walked over the course.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 189.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 23, 1848.

WITH reference to what passed between your Lordship and the Marquis Dragonetti, as reported in your despatch of the 16th ultimo, I have to instruct you to explain distinctly to the Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs that there is no general guarantee in the Treaty of Vienna, and that that Treaty imposes no obligation upon any of the Powers who were parties to it to enforce or uphold any of the stipulations and arrangements of that Treaty, excepting such with regard to which there is a special guarantee.

The Contracting Powers have undoubtedly a right to enforce and maintain all and every one of the stipulations of the Treaty if they should think fit to do so, but there is an essential difference between a right and an obligation.

Her Majesty's Government are very glad to hear that there is a likelihood that a Neapolitan Prince may be elected for the Crown of Sicily, and hope that no sinister influence may in the meanwhile produce a Republican movement in that island; but if the Neapolitan Government are disposed to favour the wishes of the Sicilians for a Neapolitan Prince it would seem politic for them to lose no time in taking measures with that view; and it is right that the Neapolitan Government should understand that any Prince whom the Sicilians may choose for their King, whether he be a Prince of the Royal Family of Naples or of any other Royal House, will be acknowledged by Great Britain as soon as he shall be in possession of his Throne.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 190.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 23, 1848.

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approved of the instruction which you addressed to Mr. Consul Goodwin, a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch of the 7th instant, and that you rightly understood the meaning of my despatch to Mr. Abercromby, which was not intended for the purpose of pointing out any one particular Prince for the choice of the Sicilians, but only to express the readiness of the British Government to acknowledge any proper choice which the Sicilians might make in this respect among the Princes of Italy. At the time when that despatch was written Her Majesty's Government had heard only the Duke of Genoa mentioned as a Prince on whom it was likely that the choice of the Sicilians would fall, but it is entirely for the Sicilians to consult their own wishes and interests in regard to this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 191.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. R. Abercromby.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 23, 1848.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 13th instant, stating that you had determined not to communicate to the Sardinian Government the intentions of the Government of Her Majesty with reference to the recognition of the Duke of Genoa, should he be disposed to accept the proffered Crown of Sicily, until after the offer has been actually made, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve of the determination taken by you in this respect.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 192.

Don Ruggiero Settimo to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 24.)

Eccellenza,

Palermo, 16 Aprile, 1848.

L'ONOREVOLE Lord Minto che con tanta simpatia per la causa della Sicilia è stato fra noi senza poter giungere a piegare la mal consigliata ostinazione del Governo di Napoli a stabilire e riconoscere le basi della vera e durevole indipendenza della Sicilia, ha dovuto naturalmente rassegnare all' Eccellenza vostra il vero stato della quistione, e la santità dei diritti della Sicilia, in virtù de' quali questo General Parlamento ha dichiarato il giorno 13 di questo mese decaduto dal Trono di Sicilia Ferdinando Borbone e tutta la sua dinastia, soggiungendo che la Sicilia intende reggersi a Monarchia costituzionale sotto un Principe Italiano. Questo atto del Parlamento, il quale onora la saggezza di questo popolo, che in tutto il corso della rivoluzione non ha mai piegato una linea dal retto sentiero della legalità e del diritto, mi ha messo nel dovere di spedire due Commissarj presso il Governo di Sua Maestà Britannica per ottenere il riconoscimento della Sicilia come ogni altro Stato indipendente Italiano, e nel medesimo tempo per porgere all' Eccellenza vostra a viva voce i più sinceri e vivi ringraziamenti per tutto quello che la Gran Bretagna ha sinora così lealmente praticato a favore della causa Siciliana.

Io mi prendo dunque, o Signore, la libertà di raccomandarli direttamente all' Eccellenza vostra acciocchè si compiacca di accoglierli nel detto carattere di Commessarj scelti da me nella mia qualità di Presidente del Governo del Regno di Sicilia, e di appoggiare con tutto il peso della sua vevolissima protezione le domande che in nome della Sicilia faranno al Governo di Sua Maestà Britannica.

Permetta, &c.
(Firmato) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Palermo, April 16, 1848.

THE Honourable Lord Minto, who has here so fully entered into our feelings of sympathy in the cause of Sicily, without being able to succeed in conquering the ill-judged determination of the Government of Naples not to establish or acknowledge the basis of the real and lasting independence of Sicily, has without doubt informed your Excellency of the real state of the question and of the sanctity of the rights of Sicily, by virtue of which this General Parliament on the 13th day of the present month declared the abdication of Ferdinand of Bourbon and all his family from the Throne of Sicily, with the addition that Sicily shall be governed by a Constitutional Monarchy under an Italian Prince. This act of Parliament, honourable to the wisdom of this people, which during the whole course of the revolution has never swerved from the strict path of legality and justice, has made it my duty to dispatch two Commissioners to the Government of Her Britannic Majesty to obtain the recognition of Sicily as of any other Italian State, and at the same time to present to your Excellency *visa voce* the most sincere and hearty thanks for all that Great Britain has until now so honourably done in favour of the Sicilian cause.

I consequently take the liberty, my Lord, to recommend them directly to your Excellency, that you may be pleased to receive them in the above-mentioned character of Commissioners chosen by me in my quality as President of the Government of the Kingdom of Sicily, and to support with all the weight of your powerful protection the demand which in the name of Sicily they are about to make to the Government of Her Britannic Majesty.

Allow me, &c.
(Signed) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

No. 193.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 27, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve of Mr. Goodwin having communicated to the President of the Kingdom of Sicily and to M. Stabile my instruction to Mr. Abercromby upon the subject of the election of a Prince to fill the Throne of Sicily.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 194.

Lord Eddisbury to Mr. Merivale.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 28, 1848.

WITH reference to your letter of the 21st instant, inclosing the report of the Governor of Malta of the circumstances under which he had permitted certain Neapolitan refugees to disembark from the French

steamer "Pluton," and stating the reasons which had induced him to refuse to grant passports to those individuals for Sicily, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to observe that the Governor of Malta seems to have exercised a sound discretion in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDDISBURY.

No. 195.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 30.)

My Lord,

Naples, June 20, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo.

Mr. Goodwin enumerates the various Princes who appear in the light of candidates for the Throne of Sicily; but from the reports of Her Majesty's Consul and that of Mr. Fagan, and from the intelligence brought by a confidential agent employed by M. Scovazzo in Sicily, I am bound to believe that a son of the King of Naples has little chance of obtaining any favour in that country.

The family of Florence would perhaps be scarcely disposed to accept a Throne so lately lost by an allied Sovereign.

That of Sardinia seems to offer some causes of jealousy to the Sicilians, but which might apply less to a collateral relative of the King, such as the Prince of Carignan, than to one of His Majesty's sons.

In this dilemma the opinion of Her Majesty's Government could not fail to have great weight with the Parliament of Sicily, and I may perhaps be permitted to solicit your Lordship's instructions for Mr. Goodwin should he be consulted on this important question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 195.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, June 14, 1848.

ON the morning of the 12th instant an anonymous proclamation addressed to "True Lovers of Liberty," and posted on the walls at the corners of the streets, attracted public attention and became the theme of discussion.

The manifesto sets out with observing that it having been determined to establish a Constitutional Monarchy, it was high time to proceed to the election of a Sovereign, and goes on to say that the intended choice, which will not fail to be ratified by the Great Powers of Europe and the several States of Italy, will lie among five candidates, viz.: a son of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, a son of Charles Albert, the Prince of Canino, the Duke of Leuchtenberg, and Prince Louis Napoleon, all of whom are weighed and found wanting, the last excepted. Should the son of the Grand Duke of Tuscany be chosen, a Regency will be required which cannot fail to be pernicious; should a son of Charles Albert be selected, Italian independence and the Italian League will melt into air and the future state of Italy will be worse than the past; should the choice of the electors fall on the Prince of Canino the prospect will be gloomy: a Prince, an object of jealousy to the Italian patriots, will be raised to the Sicilian Throne. There remain then two others, the Duke of Leuchtenberg and Louis Napoleon. The former is objected to on two grounds: first that he is not an Italian, and secondly that he is a protégé of Russia. Four candidates are thus disposed of: the fifth and favourite is behind, the son of the best of Napoleon's brothers, by whom he was taught the principles of freedom; Louis Napoleon has shown in all the changes of an eventful life

that he is animated by liberal sentiments. His talents and disposition, his love of letters and his taste for military science qualify him to be King of Sicily, while his ample fortune, which may be invested advantageously in the Sicilian funds, and his want of connexion with any of the reigning families of Europe, which places him beyond the reach of foreign influence, fit him beyond all others to promote the public welfare and happiness.

The avowed aim of the proclamation, to induce the Sicilians to proceed without further delay to the election of a King, appears to have been missed. The Commons, instead of mooted the question, are going on with the projected reforms of the fundamental articles just the same as before. Arrived at the 12th Article, whereby the King is authorized to suspend the sittings for a month or even to dissolve the Chambers, the Commons have refused the power of suspension, but granted that of dissolution to the future Sovereign.

A sixth candidate for the Crown has just appeared in the person of the Prince of Carignano, who is said to be free from the objections to which the Duke of Genoa is liable.

The speech of Signor Stabile to the Chambers on the French recognition having been inaccurately reported, I have procured a copy of the minute for the archives of Government, which I do myself the honour to inclose to your Lordship.

Inclosure 2 in No. 195.

Speech of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the two Chambers of Parliament at Palermo, June 10, 1848.

JERI dopo che le Camere erano sciolte, ho ricevuto dispacci dati da Parigi il 27 Maggio, dai nostri Commissarii Friddari, Granatelli, Scalia, e Furnari.

Risulta dai dispacci sudetti, che accolti i nostri Commissarii degnamente dai Rappresentanti del Governo della Repubblica Francese, ed elogiati come Siciliani, e mandati da un popolo che ha saputo combattere e meritarsi la libertà, il Governo della Repubblica è persuaso e convinto della santità del nostro dritto e della giustizia della nostra dimanda, che l'indipendenza e la nuova forma di Governo Monarchico Costituzionale, stabilita pel Decreto di questo Generale Parlamento, vengano riconosciute dalle Grandi Potenze Europee.

Che però coll'esempio medesimo della Francia, la quale per non avere ancora riordinato definitivamente il suo stato, nè stabilito lo statuto politico per il quale dovrà governarsi, non è sin oggi diplomaticamente riconosciuta ancora dalle altre Potenze Europee il Governo della Repubblica, non crede poter riconoscere diplomaticamente e di dritto il Governo di Sicilia, sino a che cessato lo stato di provvisorietà, non siasi consolidato firmamente, pel compimento del nostro statuto e per la elezione del Re.

Che al tempo stesso da parte del Governo della Repubblica, non si mancherà di trattare officiosamente colla Sicilia per mezzo dei Commissarii, e per i buoni uffici che il Signor Lamartine ed il Ministro degli Affari Esteri, Signor Bastide, potranno adoperare presso la Commissione Esecutiva della Repubblica e presso il Comitato di Affari Esteri dell'Assemblea Nazionale, si spera poter conseguire il nostro riconoscimento di dritto, e che la Repubblica si occupava di spedire al più presto possibile un suo Inviato presso il Governo Siciliano per la reciprocità delle officiosità e delle relazioni amichevoli.

Risulta infine dai dispacci che le risoluzioni anzidette annunziate dai Signori Lamartine e Bastide, erano già state trattate dal Governo della Repubblica prima di quella udienza accordata ai nostri Commissarii.

Signori, la favorevole accoglienza che da tutte le nazioni ricevono le giuste domande della Sicilia per la recognizione dei suoi dritti, è dovuta alla sagesza, alla moderazione, al giudizio con cui questo popolo ha saputo condurre la rivoluzione. I nostri Commissarii a Parigi provan sempre la gioia di sentir lodati i Siciliani per queste virtù, e di vedere additata la

Sicilia come modello a tutte le altre nazioni, e continuando, come ne siamo certi, nella stessa via di saggezza e di legalità, anche i nostri nemici dovranno ammirarci ed imitarci se lo sapranno.

La immanità poi del Rè di Napoli ha destato da per tutto tale orrore e dimostrato all' Europa tanto evidentemente la giustizia ed il buon dritto dei Siciliani nel liberarsi rotondamente della soggezione di quel Rè, che noi mentre da una mano compiangiamo le vittime cadute in Napoli, dobbiamo dall'altra riconoscere in tutta la catena degli eventi, la mano onnipotente della Provvidenza, che vuol proteggere questo popolo, perchè lo merita.

Il nome di Palermo ha figurato sopra una piramide immensa che era al ingresso del Campo di Marte in Parigi il 21 Maggio, giorno della festa della concordia.

Nei dispacci medesimi i Commissarii mi avisano avere già ottenuto definitivamente che la linea dei vapori Francesi del Mediterraneo toccasse Messina nei suoi viaggi periodici di tre volte al mese, e mi hanno acchiusa la circolare del Governo della Repubblica, per la quale si dà conoscenza al pubblico della Francia di questa innovazione nel servizio Postale.

I Commissarii mi fanno sperare che oltre al trasporto delle lettere stampe, e mostre di mercanzie, i vapori suddetti trasporteranno tra breve anco i viaggiatori.

Questa notizia l'ho comunicata fin da jeri all' Amministratore delle Poste, e date le analoghe disposizioni perchè il pubblico ne profitti quanto più presto.

(Translation.)

YESTERDAY after the Chambers had broken up I received despatches from Paris dated May 27, from our Commissaries Friddari, Granatelli, Scalia, and Furnari.

From these despatches it appears that our Commissaries were well received by the Representatives of the Government of the French Republic and praised in their character of Sicilians and as the envoys of a people which has known how to fight for and to merit liberty, and that the said Government is convinced of the sacred nature of our cause and of the justness of our demands that the independence and the new form of Constitutional Monarchy established by decree of this General Parliament should be recognized by the Great European Powers.

But that as France itself, from not having definitively reorganized its political state nor arranged the code by which it is to be governed, has not hitherto been diplomatically recognized by the other European powers, so the Government of the Republic cannot recognize the Government of Sicily diplomatically and officially until the provisional state shall cease and we shall have arranged our laws and elected our King.

That at the same time the Government of the Republic will not fail to transact business with Sicily through its Commissaries; and it is hoped that through the good offices of M. Lamartine and M. Bastide, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, with the Executive Committee of the Republic and the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly, it will be possible to effect our legal recognition, and that the Republic intended to send as soon as possible an Envoy to the Sicilian Government to establish friendly relations and a mutual transaction of business (per la reciprocanza delle officiosità e delle relazioni amichevoli).

Lastly, it appears from the said despatches that these resolutions announced by MM. Lamartine and Bastide had been treated of by the Government of the Republic previous to the audience granted to our Commissaries.

Gentlemen, the favourable reception which the just demands of Sicily for the recognition of its rights have met with from all nations is owing to the wisdom, moderation and judgment with which this people has carried on the Revolution. Our Commissaries at Paris have the pleasure of hearing the Sicilians ever praised for these virtues, and of seeing Sicily pointed out as a model for all other nations; and if we continue as we are

sure to do in the same course of wisdom and legality, even our enemies must at last admire us and imitate us if they are able.

The cruelty also of the King of Naples has excited everywhere such horror, and shown to Europe so clearly the justice and right of the Sicilians in liberating themselves entirely from subjection to that King, that we on the one hand whilst we bewail the victims who have fallen in Naples, must on the other recognize in all things the chain of events and the omnipotent hand of Providence, whose will it is to protect this people, because it deserves it.

The name of Palermo has figured on an immense pyramid at the entrance of the Champ de Mars at Paris on May 21st, the day of the Feast of Concord.

In the same despatches the Commissaries inform me that they have already obtained definitively that the line of French steamers of the Mediterranean shall touch at Messina in their periodical voyages of three times a month, and have also inclosed to me a circular from the Government of the Republic acquainting the public in France with this change in the postal service.

The Commissioners lead me to hope that these steamers besides carrying letters, prints, and samples of merchandize, will soon also transport passengers.

I have already communicated this notice to the Director of the Post and have taken measures that the public may profit by it as soon as possible.

No. 196.

The Marquis of Normanby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 30.)

(Extract.)

Paris, June 29, 1848, 11 A.M.

M. BASTIDE stated this morning that he wished to speak to me about Sicily; that the line the French Government had taken there was precisely the same as that which we had adopted here, to express a perfect readiness to recognize the independence of Sicily so soon as the Government should be definitively established.

M. Bastide then asked what we meant to do about saluting the Sicilian flag. Admiral Baudin had written to him to inquire what his line should be.

I told M. Bastide I was sure it would be gratifying to Her Majesty's Government that he had shown such a disposition to act in concert in the Mediterranean, where so many delicate questions might yet arise. I added that I had no official information on the subject, but that I had reason to believe that Admiral Baudin would find that Sir William Parker had instructions to salute the Sicilian flag. I was sure that Admiral Baudin would always find Sir William Parker most ready to receive any friendly communications of this nature from him.

No. 197.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, June 20, 1848.

THE last arrival from Messina conveys intelligence of some unimportant conflicts between the garrison of the citadel and the Sicilian forces. An affair is also mentioned as having occurred between the Sicilian gun-boats and a Neapolitan steam-vessel of war stationed at Reggio, which, however magnified by the fancy of the contending parties, seems to have issued in a prolonged and ineffectual cannonade without loss on either side.

Two bodies of Sicilian volunteers, stated to be together near 1000 strong,

but probably not so numerous, have been transported from Milazzo, near Messina, to Paola on the Calabrian coast. Their design is to join the insurgent party, of which the head-quarters are fixed at Cosenza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 198.

Lord Eddisbury to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 3, 1848.

I AM directed by Viscount Palmerston to request that you will submit for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the expediency of sending to Sir William Parker instructions to salute or otherwise properly acknowledge the new Sicilian flag.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDDISBURY.

No. 199.

Viscount Palmerston to the Marquis of Normanby.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 4, 1848.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 29th ultimo, reporting your conversation with M. Bastide respecting the affairs of Italy, I have to instruct you to express to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs the sincere gratification of Her Majesty's Government at finding that the two Governments are likely to act in unison and to have the same views and objects in regard to the affairs of Italy and Sicily.

And in answer to M. Bastide's question as to the intentions of Her Majesty's Government respecting the recognition of the flag of the new Sicilian State, your Excellency may state that Sir William Parker will be instructed to salute the Sicilian flag.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 200.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 4, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker dated the 24th ultimo, reporting the state of affairs in Sicily and at Naples.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 200.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Hibernia," Malta, June 24, 1848.

I REQUEST you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hecate" having been relieved by the "Bulldog" at Palermo, arrived here yesterday afternoon.

2. The "Hecate" left Messina, Catania, and Syracuse on the 23rd instant, when all was perfectly quiet at the two latter places. Captain Rohh of the "Gladiator" informs me that occasional firing of musketry and artillery had taken place between the Neapolitan troops in the citadel and the Sicilians at

Messina, as well as with the Neapolitan steam-vessels and Sicilian gun-boats in the Faro, but with little or no effect.

3. A French steamer had arrived at Messina with an Attaché of the French Embassy at Naples, who announced that the Government of France would acknowledge the independence of Sicily as soon as she had reformed her statute.

4. The French ship "Jupiter," of 80 guns, and "Panama" large steamer, are now stationed at Messina.

5. Official intimation has been received of the renewal of the fourteen days' quarantine lately imposed on vessels arriving in Sicily from Malta.

6. I inclose for their Lordships' information a copy of the latest accounts which I have received from Captain Codrington of the "Thetis," by which it will be seen that the French squadron are still at and in the vicinity of Naples.

Inclosure 2 in No. 200.

Captain Codrington to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Thetis," Naples, June 20, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the French squadron remaining at the port consist of the "Friedland" 120, "Inflexible" 90, "Jena" 90, "Descartes" steamer 16, and a small steamer with two guns aft, at anchor off Naples; "Souveraine" 120, "Ocean" 120, at Castellmare, but now under weigh in the bay probably for exercise.

On the evening of the 16th, the "Jupiter" 86, Captain Lugeol, accompanied by two steamers, left Naples for Messina where I believe she is stationed.

This was occasioned by the renewal of hostilities at that place, but from what I have been able to ascertain, the operations of the contending parties at Messina are as yet without vigour and inefficient towards any final result. But should the small Sicilian force recently landed in Calabria (probably under 1000 men) succeed in raising the inhabitants of that part of the country against the present Government, they may be able to beat the 12,000 Neapolitan troops at present at Calabria, and then by getting possession of Scylla and Reggio, the Sicilians will gain the controul of the Straits, and ultimately so distress the citadel of Messina by cutting off its communication as well as by other military operations as to bring on its surrender.

In the meantime the character of the return of Members to serve in the coming Parliament to meet in the early part of next month is adverse to the present Ministry. In some places the electors on meeting have merely made a procès-verbal affirming the validity of their previous election and reasserting the candidates then chosen as their actual representatives; in others they have proceeded to a new election; but in almost every case the very same individuals as before have been returned as Members for the Parliament. This gives a considerable check to the Government, and shows the state of public opinion in the provinces.

If on the meeting of Parliament the discussions are free, we may expect strong differences, if not collisions, between the King's Government and the Parliament from recent events, from present difficulties, and above all from the want of experience of all parties in carrying on public business.

If the Government control the discussions by force or prevent the meeting of Parliament, or suddenly get rid of it and govern the country by means of the army, the provinces will then be almost sure of rising generally, particularly Calabria, excited by the Sicilian landing, and then not only will Messina be gone, but Naples and the Throne of Ferdinand will be in the greatest danger.

But if the King's Government were at present to act with great prudence and moderation and if they believe them sincere in it, there would be no such general rising in the provinces as to render the Sicilian landing of importance, and then that small body of men would be crushed by the large Neapolitan force at present in Calabria. This would put the King's Government in a far more commanding position for terms in any future negotiations with Sicily, and probably put off a final settlement by inducing claims too exorbitant to be agreed to by Sicily.

It is right to explain that these are only what seem to me now the most reasonable opinions on what intelligence I have been able to gather at present, but it is almost impossible to obtain at Naples certain news of facts or information of any sort which may be securely relied on.

(Signed)

H. J. CODRINGTON.

No. 201.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 10.)

My Lord,

Naples, June 27, 1848.

CONTRARY to general expectation the Neapolitan Ministry have adopted the measure of their predecessors in levying a general forced loan on every class of the community, and have commenced the repartition of the sum allotted to the trade of Naples.

The British merchants having been assessed along with other foreigners for contributions much larger than was originally contemplated, have addressed me the inclosed letter, and in conformity with their wishes I have forwarded the accompanying note to his Excellency Prince Cariati, again requesting a delay until I be honoured by your Lordship's instructions, which were solicited in my despatch of May 2nd.

Four thousand ducats (666l.) are now the share appointed to merchants of the second class, which comprehends several English firms.

But Baron Charles Rothschild forms a first class alone, and must satisfy a requisition for thirty thousand ducats, against which he has protested, but perhaps without much effect, being a subject of the Prussian Customs Union.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 201.

The British Merchants of Naples to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Naples, June 27, 1848.

PURSUANT to a Royal decree dated 26th April last, the Neapolitan Government has called upon us British subjects residing and trading in Naples to contribute to a forced loan in the sums which we have added to our signatures at foot.

We have taken advice in respect of our liability, and find a difference of opinion regarding Article III of the existing Treaty between Great Britain and this country; and having been informed by your Lordship that you have applied to Lord Palmerston to know whether it be the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that we are bound to contribute to the loan in question, we request your Lordship will claim from the Government of Naples that we shall not be coerced to pay what has been demanded of us, until you have a reply from the Secretary of State.

Further we intreat your Lordship will procure the list of the sums which the entire trade of Naples has been called on to contribute, that we may have evidence that no favour has been shown in the repartition of the loan, and that your Lordship will claim that we be exempted from paying the loan unless it be general; also that your Lordship will hold the Neapolitan Government responsible that the sum be repaid to us eventually, according to the decree dated 26th April.

(Signed)

DOBREE, MAINGY & CO,

Taxed for 4000 ducats.

CUMMING, WOOD & CO,

Taxed for 4000 ducats.

J. W. FURSE & CO,

For 2000 ducats.

W. J. TURNER & CO,

For 4000 ducats.

W. E. ROUTH & R. JEANS,

For 800 ducats.

Inclosure 2 in No. 201.

Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.

Naples, June 27, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., had the honour on the 1st of May to transmit to Marquis Dragonetti a note relative to the forced loan, in which he requested that the Neapolitan Government would not exact that imposition from Her Britannic Majesty's subjects until the Undersigned had received the instructions of his Government.

Although the Undersigned obtained at that time an unfavourable answer, he takes the liberty of recurring to the question in discussion, and of soliciting again from his Excellency Prince Cariati the desired delay.

The Undersigned does not intend to enter upon the discussion of the terms of Article III of the Treaty of 1845, which will no doubt be invoked by either side in support of their respective opinions; but his Excellency Prince Cariati will at least allow that the terms of that Article may admit of an interpretation on the part of Her Majesty's Government, adverse to the pretensions of that of His Sicilian Majesty; and it would surely be impolitic to commence a course of exaction and coercion towards foreigners which their Government may disallow, and which would in that case probably entail a prolonged discussion, and their ultimate reimbursement.

The Undersigned is in daily expectation of instructions for his guidance in this matter; he therefore ventures to submit to his Excellency Prince Cariati the expediency of abstaining from demanding the forced loan from Her Majesty's subjects, and of prosecuting them for the same, until the sentiments of Her Britannic Majesty's Government be known.

Should, however, the Neapolitan Government insist, which the Undersigned can hardly contemplate, on the peremptory payment of the forced loan by British subjects, his Excellency Prince Cariati will see that such payment cannot in any case justly be made until the whole schedule of the loan be filled up, and its apportionment completed; for until this be effected the loan cannot be properly termed general; and the Undersigned has the honour to request that his Excellency Prince Cariati will cause him to be furnished with a list of the sums which the entire trade of Naples will be called on to contribute, in order that the English merchants may have evidence that no favour has been shown, nor any exceptions made in the repartition thereof.

It may also be allowed for the Undersigned to call the attention of Prince Cariati to the provisions of the ordinance by which the present forced loan was prescribed, for unless those provisions be fulfilled, and the loan be enforced on every class contemplated by that act, it would cease to be general, and under no possible interpretation of the Treaty could be applicable to British subjects.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 202.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 12, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches of the 2nd and 7th of May, upon the subject of the right of British subjects to exemption, under the 3rd Article of the Treaty between this country and Naples of the 29th of April, 1845, from the operation of an ordinance lately issued by the Neapolitan Government, imposing a forced loan, I have to state to your Lordship that it appears to Her Majesty's Government that the claim of British subjects to be exempted from the operation of the ordinance in question is good. It appears that the Italian version of this clause was the origin alone, and was drawn up by the Neapolitan Government, and that the English version was a translation from the Italian, and was intended to be conformable with it. The Italian version is grammatically clear, and declares that British subjects shall be exempt from certain things which it enumerates. One of these things is "Prestiti Forzosi"

in the plural number; the other is "ogni Contribuzione Straordinaria purchè non sia generale e stabilita per legge," and here the substantive and the verb are in the singular number. It is impossible by grammatical construction that that the words "Purchè non sia" can refer to the noun plural like "Prestiti forzosi;" and it is obvious that if the qualification as to generality of application and establishment by law had been meant to apply to "Prestiti forzosi," as well as to contribuzione straordinaria, the verb would have been "siano" or "sieno" in the plural, and not "sia" in the singular; and indeed if the two had been intended to be coupled together, both substantives would have been in the same number, either singular or plural. The sentence might in that case have run "da ogni prestito forzoso e da ogni contribuzione straordinaria purchè," &c., or it might have been "da prestiti forzosi e da contribuzione straordinaria purchè non sieno."

It is perfectly clear, therefore, from the wording of the Italian version, that British subjects are entirely exempted from forced loans, and the English version though not so grammatically distinct as the Italian is entirely in accordance with this meaning.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 203.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 12, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 5th ultimo, inclosing documents relating to the claims which have been put forward by eleven mercantile houses at Messina for indemnification on account of the losses which they sustained by the destruction of the entrepôt of that city; I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government having had those documents under their consideration, are of opinion that the claims numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, viz., those of Mr. Joseph Smithson, of Mr. Henry John Ross, of Mr. Antonio Catania, of Mr. Giuseppe Bindham, and of Messrs. Loeffler and Desgrand, are satisfactorily established, and I have to desire that your Lordship will call upon the Neapolitan Government to make compensation to the British owners to the amount proved by those claims.

Her Majesty's Government are also of opinion that the claim No. 9 made by Verbeke and Sons should be supported, provided that the persons designated in the bill of lading dated the 15th December, 1847, shall prove to be British subjects, which Mr. Consul Barker states they are supposed to be.—

With regard to the other claims, Nos. 5, 7, 8, 10, and 11, Her Majesty's Government think they cannot be supported.

The claim No. 5 is unsatisfactory, because that claim does not correspond with the official document at the custom-house.

The claim No. 7 is unsatisfactory, because the goods were the actual property of a Sicilian subject at the time of their destruction. The circumstance of M. D. Manganaro being indebted to a British subject for the price of these goods or on any other account, would not justify a demand being made against the Neapolitan Government.

The claims Nos. 8 and 10 are unsatisfactory, because the goods are not proved to have belonged to British subjects.

The claim No. 11 is unsatisfactory, because the declarations or certificates produced by Mr. Poppleton cannot be taken as proof of the property being in him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 204.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, July 12, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 20th ultimo, in which you request to be made acquainted with the opinions of Her Majesty's Government upon the subject of the choice of a Prince to fill the Throne of Sicily, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government feel great unwillingness to encounter the responsibility which must more or less attach to any advice given by them to the Sicilians in regard to the choice of a Sovereign; but nevertheless as the Sicilians seem desirous of knowing the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government on this very important matter, Her Majesty's Government will not withhold their opinion. And in the first place I have to state that Her Majesty's Government see no reason to alter the belief which they have frequently expressed through your Lordship and through Lord Minto, that it would be most conducive to the permanent interests of Sicily that a Prince of the Royal Family of Naples should be chosen for the Throne of Sicily. There is so much natural connexion between Sicily and Naples from identity of race, from geographical proximity, and from long existing political union, that politically, commercially, and socially, it would seem that the more the two countries could be drawn together the better it would be for both, and that if they cannot be united under one and the same Crown the next best thing would be that the two Crowns should be connected by the ties of blood between the Sovereigns who wear them.

But if this is no longer possible, then undoubtedly the Sicilians would do right to choose an Italian Prince for their Sovereign, because by such a choice they maintain their connexion with the Federation of Italian States with which their political and commercial interests must necessarily ally them; while on the other hand they shut out foreign influences.

No. 205.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. R. Abercromby.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 12, 1848.

I HEREWITH transmit to you for your information a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Naples upon the subject of the choice of a Prince to fill the Throne of Sicily.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 206.

The Hon. R. Abercromby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 21.)

My Lord,

Turin, July 16, 1848.

I RECEIVED this morning from Lord Napier the accompanying despatch together with its inclosures which had been brought to Genoa by Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Porcupine," Commander Roberts.

The moment specified by the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 8th of May last having arrived, I have not failed to execute your Lordship's orders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. ABERCROMBY.

No. 207.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 21.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 12, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Goodwin, conveying intelligence of the election of the Duke of Genoa to the Throne of Sicily.

M. Alliata, brother to Prince Villa Franca, has been charged with the duty of announcing this event to the Court of Turin, and he will to-morrow proceed to Genoa by Captain Codrington's orders, in Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Porcupine."

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 207.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, July 11, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I have this day received a despatch from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, stating that the General Parliament of Sicily having completed the fundamental Statute of the kingdom and proceeded to the election of a Prince to fill the vacant Throne of Sicily, have unanimously nominated and proclaimed as King of the Sicilians, with the name and title of Albert Amedeus the First, the Duke of Genoa, the second son of the present King of Sardinia.

The above despatch incloses to me a decree of the Parliament duly authenticated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, which I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JNO. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 207.

Decree of the Sicilian Parliament proclaiming the Duke of Genoa King of Sicily.

Parlamento Generale di Sicilia.

Il Parlamento decreta:

ARTICOLO 1°. Il Duca di Genova, figlio secondogenito dell'attuale Rè di Sardegna, è chiamato colla sua discendenza a regnare in Sicilia secondo lo Statuto Costituzionale del 10 Luglio, 1848.

Art. 2°. Egli prenderà nome e titolo di Alberto Amedeo Primo, Rè dei Siciliani, per la Costituzione del regno.

Art. 3°. Sarà invitato ad accettare e giurare secondo lo Articolo 40 dello statuto.

Fatto e deliberato in Palermo il dì 11 Luglio, 1848.

Il Presidente della Camera dei Comuni,
(Firmato) MARCHESE DI TORREARSA.
Il Presidente della Camera dei Pari,
(Firmato) DUCA DI SERRADIFALCO.

Per copia conforme,
Il Presidente della Camera dei Comuni,
(Firmato) MARCHESE DI TORREARSA.

Il Presidente del Governo del Regno di Sicilia fa nota questo decreto a tutte le autorità e Comuni del regno per la corrispondente intelligenza ed esecuzione.

Palermo, il dì 11 Luglio, 1848.

Il Presidente del Governo del Regno di Sicilia,
(Firmato) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri e del Commercio,
(Firmato) M. STABILE.

Per copia conforme,
Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri e del Commercio,
(Firmato) M. STABILE.

(Translation.)

General Parliament of Sicily.

The Parliament Decrees:

Article 1. The Duke of Genoa, the second son of the present King of Sardinia, and his descendants, are called to the Throne of Sicily according to the Constitutional Statute of July 10, 1848.

Art. 2. He will take the name and title of Albert Amedeus the First, King of the Sicilians, according to the Constitution of the kingdom.

Art. 3. He shall be invited to take the Throne, and to swear according to the 40th Article of the Statute.

Done and decreed at Palermo the 11th day of July, 1848.

The President of the Chamber of Commons,
(Signed) MARQUIS TORREARSA.

The President of the Chamber of Peers,
(Signed) DUKE OF SERRIDIFALCO.

The President of the Government of the Kingdom of Sicily makes known this Decree to all the authorities and communes of the kingdom for their information and its execution.

Palermo, July 11, 1848.

The President of the Government of the Kingdom of Sicily,
(Signed) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commerce,
(Signed) M. STABILE.

No. 208.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. R. Abercromby.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 25, 1848.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 16th instant I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve of your having executed the instruction contained in my despatch of the 8th of May.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 209.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 5, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship with reference to my preceding despatch,* that after I had presented the Queen's letters to Their Sicilian Majesties, the King called me to an adjoining room and entered upon the affairs of Sicily.

* Reporting presentation of Letters from the Queen.

His Majesty remarked that so many motives of union existed between the Kingdom of Naples and the Island of Sicily, that they never had been and never could remain long disunited; that he was assured symptoms of reaction were apparent in his favour on the eastern coast of Sicily, and he encouraged me to state to him whether I was in possession of intelligence of a similar character.

I replied to the King that I had endeavoured to work in His Majesty's interest; that I had commissioned Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo and more especially Mr. Fagan, who knows Sicily perfectly well, to ascertain whether any overtures in favour of His Majesty's family could be made with any chance of success, but that I regretted to state I could obtain no such prospect. The King said of course the Parliament of Sicily were too deeply compromised to listen to his proposals, but that he looked to the people of the provinces, who, tired of the prevailing disorders or disgusted with the predominance of Palermo, would at length revert to their legitimate Sovereign. I answered that it was impossible to predict whether such sentiments might or might not arise, but that my present information went to show that the provinces of Sicily had great confidence in the Parliament and were in no very disturbed state.

The King then discussed the probability of the acceptance of the Sicilian Crown by the King of Sardinia or the Duke of Tuscany, and alluded to the ancient friendship which had subsisted between the Crown of Great Britain and that of his family; and further conversation ensued during which I had an opportunity to state to the King with becoming respect, that Her Majesty's Government having sincerely desired to preserve the union between the Crowns of Sicily and Naples, and having subsequently sought to promote the choice of one of His Majesty's sons as King of the former, had now very much at heart the settlement of Sicily and the restoration of the Monarchical form of Government in that country, even at the sacrifice of some objects which they nevertheless warmly desired to retain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 210.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 25.)

(Extract.)

Naples, July 11, 1848.

SIR G. HAMILTON in a letter which I have the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith, conveyed a distinct announcement on the part of the Grand Duke, that he was prepared to accept the Crown of Sicily for his son under certain conditions, in case it should be tendered to him by the Sicilian Parliament.

I thought that this intelligence ought not to lie dormant in my hands, and I therefore requested Captain Codrington to dispatch Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Porcupine" to Palermo, and I charged Mr. Fox, attached to Her Majesty's Legation, to deliver to Her Majesty's Consul the accompanying instructions.

To these communications I received the annexed reports in reply, and Mr. Fox on returning gave a favourable account of the state of Sicily, but declared his impression that it would be vain to attempt any transaction in favour of a Prince of the House of Naples, a subject to which I had called his attention. Mr. Fox also learned that the Sicilian Government had received an encouraging answer to their overtures from the King of Sardinia.

Inclosure 1 in No. 210.

Sir George Hamilton to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Florence, June 17, 1848.

I HAD an audience of the Grand Duke yesterday evening at his villa near my residence, and the conversation chiefly turned on Sicilian affairs.

As he had heard nothing from Sicily for some time past he was naturally very anxious for information which your despatches enabled me to give him.

With regard to his son he said he had made up his mind not to make any difficulties on this subject in the event of the throne being offered to him, but as he was only nine years old he must stipulate for such tutors being allowed to accompany him as he thought proper.

Inclosure 2 in No. 210.

Lord Napier to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Naples, June 24, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to you herewith an extract of a letter which I have received from Sir George Hamilton, giving account of a conversation which had passed between the Grand Duke of Tuscany and himself regarding the affairs of Sicily.

It appears that His Royal Highness is prepared to accede under certain conditions to the overtures which the Sicilian Parliament may do him the honour to make for the election of one of his sons to the Throne of that kingdom.

I am not warranted to express on the part of Her Majesty's Government any preference for one candidate rather than another, but the Government of Sicily ought not to be left in ignorance of the disposition of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, and you will therefore have the goodness to wait upon the President of the Kingdom and in the presence of M. Stabile read to him the accompanying extract.

It might at the same time be expedient to submit respectfully to the President how desirable it is to proceed with as slight delay as possible to the choice of a King, which would impart a great stability to the Government, offer a really national object of interest and hope to the whole people, and dispel the intrigues and dissensions of which a long suspension of the Monarchical office might make Sicily the theatre. As some time must necessarily elapse before the negotiations for that purpose could be formally concluded and the new Sovereign brought over to take possession of the Throne, the Parliament would doubtless be enabled in the interval to complete those modifications of the Constitution which they desire to sanction by their exclusive authority.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **NAPIER.**

Inclosure 3 in No. 210.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, June 29, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 24th June, transmitting an extract from Sir George Hamilton's letter to your Lordship on the disposition of the Grand Duke of Tuscany as to the Sicilian Crown.

Taking your Lordship's despatch and its inclosure, I hastened to call on Don Ruggiero Settimo and read over to him both the papers, and subsequently placed them in the hands of M. Stabile, who briefly discussed their contents in a friendly manner.

M. Stabile, after mentioning that overtures had been made to the Grand Duke to accept the Crown of Sicily or to undertake the Government of Sicily until his second son came of age, stated that the Commons would resolve themselves on the 29th into a secret committee to take into consideration the choice of a King.

The secret sitting thus announced has taken place this day. It has been decided that the reform of the Statute shall be completed forthwith, and that the Chambers shall then proceed to the choice of a King. Every endeavour is to be made to cut short the discussion and to bring about so good an understanding between the two Chambers as shall obviate the necessity for a mixed Committee of both, the proceedings of which are always tedious and the results for the most part unsatisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **JNO. GOODWIN.**

No. 211.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 11, 1848.

THE insurrection in Calabria is drawing to a close.

On the 7th instant the column of General Busacca entered Cosenza, which had been previously evacuated by the rebel force. The latter endeavoured to occupy Catanzaro but were repulsed by the National Guard of the place, and they are now probably dispersing or holding out among the woods and fastnesses.

The Sicilian contingent, which amounted at first to 700 or 800 men, was subsequently strengthened, and a most unfounded confidence in the success of the undertaking reigned at Palermo. Many of the volunteers were doubtless men of desperate character and condition, but I regret to say that several gentlemen and persons of honest reputation also embarked in the enterprise.

The Sicilian Government have manifested a great weakness and credulity throughout this affair, and to prove to your Lordship that they were warned in time I have the honour to submit to your Lordship extract of an instruction which I addressed to Mr. Goodwin on the 2nd of June.

Messina, will now probably receive reinforcements from Calabria, where not less than 18,000 or 20,000 men are assembled.

In the Province of Lecce several disorders have occurred and Provisional Governments have sprung up in a night with the usual infatuation, but a regiment of cavalry has been already directed to the scene of disturbance, and as the nature of the country is unfavourable to a partisan warfare, tranquillity will be soon restored.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 211.

Lord Napier to Consul Goodwin.

(Extract.)

Naples, June 2, 1848.

IT would be a serious error of the Constitutional Government of Sicily to embark in the projects of the Republican faction of Naples. To strike an alliance with such a party would be a fatal deviation from the national and traditional policy hitherto pursued by the Sicilian Government, which seems to have met with the support and approval of the whole people.

In a military point of view it would be most hazardous to attempt a landing in Calabria in the face of a superior force, and without having means of keeping open the communication by sea. It is very doubtful whether the Sicilians would be welcomed by the peasantry in that province, and they would probably be cut off to a man; for the restoration of tranquillity at Naples, and the recall of the army from Lombardy may shortly place a considerable force at the disposal of Government for the pacification of its own dominions, if not for active hostilities against Sicily.

No. 212.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 13, 1848.

M. ALLIATA has been charged to announce to the Court of Sardinia the election of the Duke of Genoa to the Throne of Sicily. A more formal tender of the Crown will shortly be made to His Royal Highness by four Commissioners of high distinction, two of whom will be appointed from the House of Peers and two from the House of Commons.

M. Alliata was received on board Her Majesty's steamer "Porcupine" by order of the officer in command on that station, and Sir William Parker having

communicated to me his approval of a similar step, Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" has this afternoon directed the "Porcupine" to continue her voyage to Genoa.

The "Porcupine" fell in with Her Majesty's squadron off Cape di Gallo to the west of Palermo, having received orders to look for the Admiral in those waters before shaping her course to Naples, and I am assured the squadron would reach that port on the morning of the 12th instant.

It may perhaps at first sight appear irregular that the Sicilian Commissioner should have been conveyed on board one of Her Majesty's ships, but no other means were at hand, and Captain Key was no doubt sensible of the necessity of hastening the settlement of the affair as much as possible. Once arrived at Naples it was unavoidable to allow him to continue his voyage in the same ship for he could not go by land; it would have been unbecoming that he should have waited in harbour the arrival and departure of a Sardinian steam-vessel; and though he might have taken his passage in the French Government mail-packet which touches at Leghorn, not at Genoa, on the route to Marseilles, it would have been unworthy to transfer M. Alliata from the protection of the British flag to that of the French.

I have the honour to submit to your Lordship extract of a letter which I have received from Commander Key in explanation of the motives which guided him on this occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 212.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

"*Hibernia*," off Palermo, July 11, 1848.

I SHALL stay some days here and endeavour to cement the good feeling towards England which I understand now prevails.

I quite approve of the "Bulldog" going to Genoa with the result of the choice of a King for Sicily, and equally so that the "Porcupine" was sent from Naples.

Inclosure 2 in No. 212.

Commander Key to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

"*Bulldog*," Palermo, July 11, 1848.

I AM not without expectation that the Government may request me to carry a deputation charged with the decree offering the Crown to the Duke of Genoa to Genoa.

I have made up my mind to this. If they will write to me pointing out that at present they have no steamers in port, and that otherwise there is no means of communicating with Genoa, I shall answer, that considering these points and also the importance of the information both to Sicily and Sardinia, as an act of courtesy to two friendly nations I will comply with their request and do so.

No. 213.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 13, 1848.

BY the inclosed despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, it appears that the Government of Sicily have at length and somewhat tardily resolved to withdraw their troops or volunteers from Calabria and employ them at Messina.

No answer has been received at Palermo from the Grand Duke of Tuscany in respect to the last proposals made by the Sicilians to His Royal Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 213.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, July 9, 1848.

THE secret sitting of the Commons on the 8th resulted in the resolution to withdraw the Sicilian force from Calabria and employ it in reducing the citadel of Messina. The capture of that fortress must be a remote event, unless the free communication between Reggio and the citadel be effectually cut off.

No answer has been had from the Grand Duke of Tuscany to the reported offer of the Sicilian Crown for himself on his renouncing that of Tuscany, or for his second son on his undertaking the Government of Sicily until that son comes of age.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

No. 214.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 25.)

(Extract.)

Naples, July 14, 1848.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's instructions by Queen's messenger Wright, I immediately forwarded them by Mr. Fagan to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo for communication to the Sicilian Government; and I directed Mr. Fagan to make the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government correctly and generally known by imparting them to his friends in either House of Parliament, on whom he was also empowered to urge with a proper degree of discretion the expediency of proceeding to the election of a Sovereign without further delay.

The legislative labours of the Houses of Parliament which had been already accelerated were now prosecuted with extraordinary ardour, and mutual concessions were made by rival parties.

The Chambers in a session of fifteen consecutive hours finished the reform of the Constitutional Statute, and at half-past 1 o'clock in the morning of the 11th instant they contemporaneously resolved by acclamation to offer the Crown of Sicily to His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa.

This intelligence having spread in the city caused a manifestation of national joy which could not be witnessed without emotion even by foreign and indifferent spectators.

Inclosure I in No. 214.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, July 10, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 8th July, inclosing copies of instructions from Viscount Palmerston, and directing me to impart such inclosures verbally to Don Ruggiero Settimo and Don Mariano Stabile.

In compliance with your Lordship's directions I have made the oral communication to the great satisfaction of both these gentlemen.

It having been known that a Queen's messenger was waiting at Naples for the return of the "Porcupine," the Chambers have declared their sittings permanent and have proceeded to elect a King.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JNO. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 214.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, July 11, 1848.

THE public excitement during all yesterday (10th) baffles description. The approaches to the Chambers were crowded with people of all ranks, ages, and sexes. The National Guard stood to arms at the entrance, the staircase, and ante-rooms were thronged and the galleries were full to overflowing. As time wore away impatience became more and more ungovernable, and when day closed in, the whole population rushed into the streets and stood there until morning. No sooner was the choice known than the bells of all the churches rang, the air was rent with shouts and the windows burst forth into light as if by magic. At 4 o'clock this morning I found the Marina crowded with people anxiously awaiting the announcement of the great event by the guns of the castles. The Cassaro is literally blocked up by the exulting throng and the cross streets are barely passable for carriages. The whole population have turned out crying "This is the birth of the Nation!"

On Sunday the Chambers voted 12,000 ounces (6000*l.*) as a first instalment for the repairs of the Royal Palace. Yesterday morning the engineers and architects thronged the interior of the building.

No. 215.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 25.)

(Extract.)

Naples, July 14, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Messina, acquainting me that a French steam-vessel of war has been sent to the Gulf of Squillace to endeavour to carry off the Sicilian volunteers, who abandoned by the Calabrians are now isolated at Teriolo.

Inclosure in No. 215.

Consul Barker to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Messina, July 12, 1848.

INTELLIGENCE has been received that the Calabrese have abandoned the 800 Sicilian volunteers, and that the latter are encamped at Teriolo.

On the 8th instant a French war steamer left the roadstead of Messina for Venice with orders to coast the Gulf of Squillace and attempt to save these individuals. A Prussian barque chartered by the Sicilian authorities for the same object left Messina on the 10th.

Notice from the Commissary of the Executive Power was received on the 11th instant that on the 10th the Parliament elected Albert Maria Filiberto Duke of Genoa as King of Sicily.

This morning the citadel fired five shots at one of the Sicilian forts whilst answering the salute of Her Majesty's steam-frigate "Gladiator."

The French frigate saluted the national flag at noon.

No. 216.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 25.)

(Extract.)

Naples, July 14, 1848.

IT is apparent that an expedition, it is said of ten steam-vessels, is fitting out in the dockyard at Naples, and that tenders have been made for provisions and stores, and this expedition is most probably meant for Sicily.

No. 217.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 26.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 17, 1848.

THE Sicilians effected their embarkation in Calabria in a brigantine and a docked boat to the number of about 600, and steered for Corfu.

They were however met and captured off the coast of that island by the Neapolitan steam vessel of war "Stromboli," and the lower orders having been landed at Reggio, the gentlemen or officers were brought to Naples on the morning of the 15th and imprisoned in the Castle of St. Elmo.

The officer in command of the "Stromboli" received his promotion and a gratuity was distributed to the ship's company.

A report having reached me yesterday morning that the "Stromboli" employed Her Majesty's flag to deceive and surprise the Sicilians, I lost no time in discovering the manner in which that unnecessary artifice had been used, and from a person who was on board one of the fugitive vessels I have gathered the following particulars.

When the "Stromboli" came in sight she had no colours; on approaching the Sicilian brig she hoisted the British flag. The Sicilians, who had no food or water and had suffered the greatest hardships, abandoned themselves to joy and displayed the Sicilian ensign, which they raised and lowered three times as a salute to their supposed deliverer.

On this the "Stromboli" hauled down the British flag and replaced it by her own, and having fired two shots took possession of the brig and afterwards of the boat. The Sicilians were supplied with food.

This account was corroborated by Prince Cariati in a conversation which I had with his Excellency last night.

Now supposing all this to be true, I believe the commander of the "Stromboli" did not exceed the rights and usages of belligerents in hoisting a neutral flag to deceive an enemy, although under the circumstances the statagem was neither creditable nor prudent, and I cannot believe that either Her Majesty's Government or the Admiral in command of Her Majesty's squadron will witness this profanation of the British colours with indifference, but I reserve the mere question of the exhibition of the flag for the judgment of Sir William Parker. My own attention is at present turned to two points:—

Did the "Stromboli" lower the English ensign before she fired or exercised any act of hostility or controul? Did the capture take place in Ionian waters?

With the view of elucidating these points I have addressed the accompanying note to Prince Cariati, requesting an official report of the manner in which the transaction took place, and liberty of conferring with two of the gentlemen in confinement in the Castle of St. Elmo. I fear I shall not be enabled to impart the result of my inquiries to your Lordship by the steam-packet which leaves for Marseilles this afternoon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 217.

*Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.**Naples, July 17, 1848, 9 A.M.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has been informed from several quarters that in the late capture off the coast of Corfu of a body of Sicilian troops in a brig and a decked boat by the Neapolitan steam vessel of war "Stromboli," the latter used the flag of Her Britannic Majesty in order to deceive and surprise the Sicilian vessels, and that in consequence of that artifice the Sicilians displayed their national colours and thus became obnoxious to the attack of their enemy.

The Undersigned will not at present pass any judgment on the conduct of the commander of the Stromboli, and he will simply request his Excellency Prince Cariati, &c., to acquaint him whether any report of those circumstances has reached the Neapolitan Government, and if so that an account may be rendered to Her Britannic Majesty's Legation with the least possible delay of the manner in which the transaction occurred.

But as the report of the Neapolitan officer may in this matter be regarded as the testimony of an interested party, without any disparagement to his veracity, the Undersigned deems himself justified in desiring to be admitted to the opposite sources of information, and he will consequently request Prince Cariati to give orders that the Undersigned may be allowed to see separately M. Ribotti and M. Fardella, brother to Marquis Torrecarsa, at present confined in the Castle of St. Elmo, and that Mr. Fagan, attached to Her Majesty's Legation, and Captain Codrington, be permitted to accompany him. The Undersigned has no objection to the presence of any officer on the part of the Neapolitan authorities.

As the Undersigned must communicate immediately to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker the result of his inquiries, he begs Prince Cariati will do him the favour to have this interview with the prisoners arranged in the course of the afternoon of to-day, and to facilitate that object he will have the honour of calling on Prince Cariati at his private residence at 10 o'clock.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 218.

Lord Eddisbury to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 29, 1848.

I AM directed by Viscount Palmerston to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Naples calling the attention of Her Majesty's Government to a case, in which the Neapolitan steam-vessel of war "Stromboli" used the British flag for the purpose of deceiving and capturing certain Sicilians between the Island of Corfu and the coast of Calabria; and I am to request that you will lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and that you will move their Lordships to favour Viscount Palmerston with their opinion upon this subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EDDISBURY.

No. 219.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 31, 1848.

CAPTAIN HENDERSON of Her Majesty's ship "Sidon" having been directed to proceed in the "Medusa" steam-vessel for the purpose of ascertaining the reason of a Neapolitan steam-vessel cruising off the Island of Malta, I

am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Captain Henderson to Rear-Admiral Harvey, dated the 17th instant, reporting the result of his inquiry.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure in No. 219.

Captain Henderson to Rear-Admiral Harvey.

Sir,

"Sidon," Malta, July 17, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to report that in pursuance of your order of this day's date I repaired on board Her Majesty's ship "Medusa," and at half-past 3 o'clock I boarded the Neapolitan steam vessel of war "Guisurdo," Captain A. Bruno, captain of frigate. On my requesting to know the purport of his orders for cruising off the Island of Malta, he stated that his orders were merely to cruise off the island at about the distance of twelve miles for the protection of Neapolitan vessels, and that he never molested or attempted to board any other vessels, nor did he interfere with any Sicilian vessel bound to Malta.

On my pointing out the injurious effects of his being even seen cruising off the port, thus injuring the commerce of a friendly Power, and that the usual laws of neutrality did not at all bear in the present case as he seemed to think, nor could it be allowed, he said he did not intend to continue his cruise any longer, and that then he was about to proceed to Reggio, where he would state the circumstances to his Commander-in-chief for his further instructions; and when the "Medusa" parted company, the "Guisurdo" was steering about the proper course for the Straits of Messina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. HENDERSON.

No. 220.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a note which has reached Her Majesty's Legation in common with other foreign Missions, from His Excellency the Prince Cariatì, accompanied by a protest published by His Majesty the King against the act of the Sicilian Parliament by which His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa has been called to fill the Throne of Sicily. ¶

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 220.

Prince Cariatì to Lord Napier.

Napoli, 16 Luglio, 1848.

IL sedicente Governo Provvisorio di Palermo, con deliberazione degli 11 del corrente, ha chiamato al Trono di Sicilia Sua Altezza Reale il Duca di Genova, figlio secondogenito di Sua Maestà il Rè di Sardegna.

Il Real Governo non dubita che sua Maestà Sarda per il rispetto e la religiosa fede dovuta da ogni principe a' solenni trattati approvati, sottoscritti e sanzionati da tutti i Sovrani di Europa, e per il desiderio di serbare illese le relazioni di amicizia e di buona armonia felicemente esistenti tra i due Stati, non permetterà a suo figlio di accettare una corona offertagli da turbolenta fazione. Pur nondimeno in vista di provvedere alle future eventualità, il Rè ed

il suo Consiglio han giudicato opportuno di emanare una nuova protesta con l' scopo di serbare illesa la unità e la integrità della Monarchia delle Due Sicilie, non che i sacri dritti della persona del Rè e della sua dinastia.

Il Sottoscritto, Ministro Segretario di Stato degli Affari Esteri, &c., si affretta di rimetterne copia a Lord Napier, &c., pregandola di portarla al più presto possibile alla cognizione del suo Governo, sicuro che lo stesso occorrendo vorrà appoggiare con i suoi buoni uffizj presso il Gabinetto di Torino, i reclami di quello di Napoli con tutti quelli argomenti che logicamente elucidissimamente si presenteranno alla mente di ogni uomo di stato, senza essere necessario qui lungamente riferire.

Si limiterà soltanto il Sottoscritto a far rilevare, come nelle presenti circostanze della Europa in generale, e della Italia in particolari per le nuove circoscrizioni territoriali che probabilmente vi avran luogo, diviene indispensabile la integrità, unità e forza del Regno delle Due Sicilie, onde serbare l'equilibrio e la indipendenza della Penisola.

Nè può il Real Governo supporre che si vorrà lasciare al Rè di Sardegna il diritto di decidere di moto proprio una così grave quistione, nella quale sarebbe ad un tempo giudice e parte.

E che sarebbe della indipendenza e della stabilità delle monarchie, pictra angolare del diritto internazionale e del sistema politico del mondo ineivilito, qualora si concedesse ad una fazione, e ad una parte di una nazione, la facoltà di sottrarsi dal dominio del proprio Sovrano e distaccarsi dalla Potenza di cui è parte, grande o piccola che sia, per scegliersi a suo capriccio un nuovo Sovrano, ed accrescere la forza di altro Stato, specialmente quando questo fosse già potente e bene costituito?

In attenzione di favorevole riscontro, che il Sottoscritto prega Lord Napier di sollecitare dal suo Governo, egli profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PRINCIPE DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, July 16, 1848.

THE self-called Provisional Government of Palermo by a resolution of the 11th instant has elected to the Throne of Sicily His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa, the second son of His Majesty the King of Sardinia.

The King's Government does not doubt but that His Sardinian Majesty, actuated by a due sense of the respect and religious observance which is owed to solemn treaties, approved, signed, and sanctioned by all the Sovereigns of Europe, and by the desire to preserve intact the relations of friendship and good understanding which happily exist between the two States, will not permit his son to accept a throne which has been offered him by a turbulent faction.

Nevertheless with the view of providing against future contingencies, the King and his Council have deemed it right to send forth a new protest, with the object of preserving intact the unity and integrity of the Monarchy of the Two Sicilies, together with the sacred rights of the person of the King and his dynasty.

The Undersigned, &c., hastens to send a copy to Lord Napier, &c. begging him to communicate it as soon as possible to his Government, as he is certain that that Government under such circumstances will use its good offices with the Cabinet of Turin in support of the reclamations of that of Naples, accompanied by all those arguments which must present themselves so clearly and logically to the mind of every statesman as to obviate the necessity of going through them here at length.

The Undersigned will content himself with mentioning here, that in the present position of Europe at large, and of Italy in particular, arising from the new territorial divisions which will probably take place, the integrity, unity, and strength of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies becomes indispensably necessary to preserve the equilibrium and independence of the Peninsula.

Neither can the King's Government suppose that the King of Sardinia will be allowed the right of deciding so grave a question of his own free will, in which he would be at the same time both a party concerned and judge. And

what would become of the independence and stability of monarchies, the corner stone of international law and of the political system of the civilized world, should a faction or part of a nation be allowed to set aside the authority of its own Sovereign and separate itself from the Power of which it forms a part, be that Power great or small, and to choose according to its own caprice a new King, and thereby augment the force of another State, especially if that State be already powerful and well organised?

In the expectation of a favourable and prompt answer which the Undersigned begs Lord Napier to request from his Government, he avails himself, &c.

(Signed) PRINCE CARIATI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 220.

Protest of the King of Naples against the Election of the Duke of Genoa to the Throne of Sicily.

Ferdinando II, &c.

VISTO il nostro atto di Protesta del 22 Marzo, 1848, col quale dichiarammo illegale, irrito e nullo, qualunque atto contrario agli Statuti fondamentali ed alla Costituzione della Monarchia;

Visto l'altro nostro atto solenne di Protesta del dì 18 Aprile, 1848, col quale dichiarammo illegale, irrita e di niun valore la deliberazione presa in Palermo il dì 11 Luglio, 1848, perchè lesiva de' sacri dritti della Nostra Real Persona e Dinastia, e della unità ed integrità della Monarchia;

Essendo venuta a nostra cognizione altra deliberazione presa in Palermo il dì 11 Luglio corrente, colla quale violandosi il principio della unità e della integrità della Monarchia, ed i sacri dritti della Nostra Real Persona e Dinastia, è chiamato al Trono della Sicilia S. A. R. il Duca di Genova, figlio secondogenito di S. M. il Rè di Sardegna;

Udito l'unanime parere del nostro Consiglio de' Ministri;

Dichiariamo di protestare e col presente solennemente protestiamo contro l'atto deliberativo di Palermo del dì 11 Luglio, 1848, dichiarandolo illegale, irrito, nullo, e di niun valore.

Questo atto solenne, sottoscritto da Noi, riconosciuto dal nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato di Grazia e Giustizia, munito del nostro gran sigillo, e contrassegnato dal nostro Ministro Segretario di Stato, Presidente del Consiglio de' Ministri, sarà registrato e depositato nello Archivio della Presidenza del suddetto Consiglio.

Napoli, il dì 15 di Luglio, 1848.

(Firmato) FERDINANDO.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato
Presidente del Consiglio de' Ministri,
PRINCIPE DI CARIATI.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato
di Grazia e Giustizia,

NICCOLO GIGLI.

(Translation.)

Ferdinand II, &c.

HAVING considered our Protest of March 22, 1848, in which we declare illegal, informal, and null, any resolution contrary to the fundamental Statutes and the Constitution of the monarchy;

Having considered our other solemn Protest of April 18, 1848, in which we declare to be illegal, informal, and of no effect, the resolution passed at Palermo on the 13th April, 1848, inasmuch as it is derogatory to the sacred rights of our Royal person and dynasty and to the unity and integrity of the monarchy;

And whereas it has come to our knowledge that another resolution has been passed at Palermo on the 11th instant, by which His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa, the second son of His Majesty the King of Sardinia, is called to the Throne of Sicily in violation of the principle of the unity and integrity of the monarchy and of the sacred rights of our Royal person and dynasty;

In accordance with the unanimous opinion of our Council of Ministers we declare that we protest and hereby solemnly do protest against the deliberative act passed in Palermo on the 11th of July, 1848, and declare it illegal, informal, null, and of no effect.

This solemn act, signed by us, attested by our Minister Secretary of State of Grace and of Justice, sealed with our great seal, and countersigned by our Minister Secretary of State President of the Council of Ministers, shall be registered and deposited in the archives of the presidency of the said Council.

Naples, July 15, 1848.

(Signed) FERDINAND.

The Minister Secretary of State,
President of the Council of Ministers.

PRINCE CARIATI.

The Minister Secretary of State
of Grace and Justice,
NICCOLO GIGLI.

No. 221.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 1.)

(Extract.)

Naples, July 18, 1848..

COUNT LUDOLF has been dispatched to Paris and London on a special mission relative to Sicilian Affairs.

No. 222.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 20, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker covering one from M. Stabile, by which I was requested to use my influence to prevail on the Government of Naples to treat the Sicilians lately captured as prisoners of war.

The Admiral having commented on the employment of the British flag by the Neapolitan steam sloop of war "Stromboli" and complained of a similar practice on previous occasions, I thought it right to communicate his Excellency's letter to the Neapolitan Government with the inclosed note.

I have also received from Sir William Parker the accompanying despatch relating to the manner of his arrival at Palermo, and the course which he intends to pursue should His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa accept the Throne of Sicily and arrive during the stay of Her Majesty's squadron at that port.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 222.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Hibernia," Palermo, July 17, 1848.

I DO myself the honour of requesting your Lordship's attention to the accompanying letter which I have received from M. Stabile, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sicilian Government, soliciting the interposition of the British Government, that the Sicilians who have been captured on their return from Calabria by a Neapolitan steam-vessel of war may be treated as prisoners of war, and with the same measure of humane consideration which the Sicilians have extended to the Neapolitans who have fallen into their hands since the commencement of hostilities between them.

I will not permit myself to suppose that the captives will be subjected to unusual severity by the Neapolitan Government; and the propriety of my interference in any way between the belligerents may possibly be questioned.

I may be allowed however to claim some consideration if the alleged fact be true that the Sicilians were captured by a Neapolitan vessel which usurped the British flag to effect her object.

This practice has occurred in other instances, and it becomes necessary that it should be formally protested against, to guard Her Majesty's steam-vessels from the liability of being fired into by the Sicilian fortresses, in ignorance of the real character of the vessels.

I trust your Lordship will allow me to leave the case in your hands for such representation to the Neapolitan Government as may induce a favourable result on the points I have adverted to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

10 P. M.

I inclose extracts of a letter which I have just received from Captain Robb of the "Gladiator," by which it appears that the Sicilian prisoners were captured off Corfu, but the distance from the shore is not stated.

If it was within three miles I think we are bound to claim their being delivered up to us as being properly within the protection of the British territory, more especially as the capture is said to have been made under an English flag.

Admiral Baudin has just informed me that he intends to dispatch the "Panama" immediately to Naples. I take advantage of this conveyance to forward the present despatches together with one for your Lordship which has just been delivered to me by M. Stabile.

W. P.

Inclosure 2 in No. 222.

M. Stabile to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

Palermo, July 15, 1848.

THIS Government has this day received the sad news that the Sicilians returning from Calabria to Sicily have been seized by a Neapolitan steamer which to deceive the Sicilians had hoisted the English flag.

It is also known to this Government that the commanders of those that were captured have been sent to Naples on board the Neapolitan steamer "Stromboli."

Although by a right of reciprocity (since we have always treated Neapolitan prisoners with every regard and humanity) we should expect that these Sicilian prisoners ought to be equally treated in Naples, and much more so now that Sicily is an independent State, recognized as such by several European Powers, and it cannot in consequence be a matter of any doubt that Sicilians ought to be treated as prisoners of war. I do still take the liberty to beg of your Excellency that it may please you to cause an interposition of the valuable good offices of Great Britain with the Neapolitan Government in order that our Sicilians may be treated as prisoners of war, and in the same way in which Sicilians have treated and will always treat Neapolitan prisoners of war.

With the certainty that your Excellency will kindly accept my request I do herewith anticipate to your Excellency my most distinct and lively thanks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. STABILE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 222.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

(Extract.)

Messina, July 15, 1848.

THIS morning at daylight I proceeded with Her Majesty's Consul to Reggio to endeavour to obtain an amelioration of the condition of the Sicilian prisoners that were taken on the 11th instant. They had embarked (about 650) on board two Neapolitan vessels at Tivoli on the 7th instant, and were close to Corfu when a Neapolitan steam-vessel under English colours came up with and took them prisoners. They arrived there (Reggio) on the 13th instant, and on the same night thirty-one of the leaders were sent in the "Stromboli" to Naples.

The Neapolitan authorities have treated the prisoners very well. I saw them in prison and encouraged them with the hope of being soon at liberty.

A telegraphic despatch has arrived from Naples to know the number of vessels of all kinds at Messina, which has the appearance of the King intending to blockade the port.

Everything remains quiet here, but a good deal of excitement in consequence of the capture of the Sicilians.

Inclosure 4 in No. 222.

Lord Napier to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

Naples, July 19, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 17th instant, inclosing one from M. Stabile, by which I am requested to urge upon the Neapolitan Government the propriety of dealing with the Sicilians lately captured by the "Stromboli" as with prisoners of war, and I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that I have lost no time in making the proper representations to his Excellency Prince Cariati.

I have also pointed out to his Excellency the impropriety of allowing the vessels of the Neapolitan Navy to hoist British colours, a practice which might expose Her Majesty's ships of war to insult or danger from the part of the Sicilians by mistake.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 222.

*Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.**Naples, July 19, 1848.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to submit to his Excellency Prince Cariati, &c., a copy of a despatch from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, by which it is apparent that his Excellency has viewed with displeasure the adoption of the British flag by Neapolitan steam-vessels, both on the late and on previous occasions. Such a habit might produce much to be deprecated, and even expose the vessels of Her Britannic Majesty to be fired at from the Sicilian batteries by mistake, and the Undersigned trusts that it will be henceforth abandoned.

Sir William Parker has also expressed his hope that the Government of His Sicilian Majesty will deal with the persons lately captured by the Neapolitan steam-vessel "Stromboli" as prisoners of war, responding to the humane and considerate treatment experienced by those of the Neapolitan troops who have fallen into the hands of the Sicilians in battle; and the Undersigned may be allowed on this occasion to support the appeal of his Excellency the Admiral by recalling to the memory of his Excellency Prince Cariati, that during the late disorders not less than thirty-four persons connected with the civil and police

service of His Sicilian Majesty have owed their lives to the interposition of the officers of the squadron under the command of Sir William Parker.

The Undersigned is encouraged by the prudence and benevolence which equally distinguish the character of his Excellency Prince Cariati, to hope that he will be enabled to return a satisfactory reply to the representations of the Commander-in-chief of Her Britannic Majesty's naval forces, and he avails himself, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 6 in No. 222.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Hibernia," Palermo, July 17, 1848.

THE communications which your Lordship would receive by the "Porcupine" will have apprized you of the arrival of Her Majesty's squadron in the vicinity of Palermo Bay, where it anchored at 9 p.m. on the 11th instant, and the following morning salutes were interchanged between my flag-ship and the Sicilian fortresses.

I conclude your Lordship has also been informed that after the forts had saluted on the morning of the 11th, in celebration of the election by the Sicilian Parliament of the Duke of Genoa for the Crown, a complimentary salute of twenty-one guns to the Sicilian flag was fired by Her Majesty's steam sloop "Bulldog," which was shortly afterwards followed by a similar one from the two French ships of war then in the bay.

National salutes in the usual manner were also exchanged by Vice-Admiral Baudin's flag-ship and the fortresses on the arrival of the French squadron under his command at Palermo yesterday.

On the morning of the 12th a *Te Deum* was performed in the Cathedral on the occasion of the election of the King, and the great festival of St. Rosalia has been since celebrated with every demonstration of good order, satisfaction, and general contentment of the population.

I am glad to learn by a communication received by Commander Key from Naples, that the "Porcupine" had proceeded to Genoa, and I have desired Captain Codrington on her return to send her to Palermo, whenever there is any intelligence which your Lordship or himself may think it desirable to impart to me.

Her Majesty's ships will probably remain here for the present, and pending the arrival of the King elect, to whom a deputation of ten members from the Senate will probably proceed in the Government steamer "Palermo" on the morning of the 13th.

Although I have no positive instructions from our Government as to the course which they may wish the squadron to pursue on the arrival of the Sovereign elect of Sicily, I conclude it will be their wish that he should be received with every demonstration of respect due to the Throne which he has been invited to fill by the unanimous voice of the Peers and Representatives of the country, and in consideration also of his exalted position as a Member of the House of Sardinia. If your Lordship is in possession of any communication from Her Majesty's Government which may guide me at this juncture, embracing as it does a delicate question with reference to the claims of the King of Naples, I shall feel obliged by any intimation with which you may favour me; but unless I receive instructions or suggestions that may induce a different course, it is my intention to follow the one above adverted to, which I trust will meet the views of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 7 in No. 223.

Lord Napier to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

Naples, July 19, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of July 17th, imparting to me the course which your Excellency adopted towards the newly-constituted Government of Sicily, and conveying your approval of the dispatch of Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Porcupine" to Genoa. With regard to the views expressed by your Excellency in respect to the manner in which it would be becoming to receive His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa should he accept the proffered Crown of Sicily and arrive at Palermo during the stay of Her Majesty's squadron at that city, your Excellency's sentiments meet with my perfect concurrence; but I regret that I cannot submit to your Excellency any information illustrative of the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, my only instructions relative to the affairs of Sicily being those which Mr. Goodwin has already had the honour to lay before you.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 223.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 20, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th instant I have the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copies of two notes from Prince Cariati, in one of which his Excellency forwards me copy of a letter addressed by Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" to the officer in command of the naval forces of His Sicilian Majesty at Naples, and copy of the report of the officer in command of the "Stromboli," avowing that the British flag had been used as a decoy in the capture of the Sicilians; in the other Prince Cariati incloses a communication from the Minister of Grace and Justice, by which I am to be debarred from access to the prisoners on technical grounds, which I am sure would offer no impediment whatever, were the Neapolitan Government inclined to act frankly in this matter.

I have consequently addressed the accompanying note to his Excellency Prince Cariati, marking my reprobation of the discreditable use to which Her Majesty's ensign had been put, and reiterating my desire to be admitted to a conference with two gentlemen among the number of the prisoners, one of whom acted as commander of the expedition, and the other, M. Fardella, is a person of the most respectable character and family, being brother to Marquis Torrearsa, Speaker of the Sicilian House of Commons.

To these representations I received the annexed reply, by which I have again been refused liberty of access to the persons above mentioned, and I am made to assert that the Sicilian vessels were captured in Ionian waters, though I merely stated that reports had reached me which went to prove that the second vessel was so taken.

I have consequently thought it expedient to suspend all further correspondence on the subject until I can ascertain the sentiments of Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker more explicitly.

Prince Cariati having however complained with greater acrimony than was warranted by the occasion, of an accidental error in Captain Codrington's letter regarding the title of His Sicilian Majesty, I forwarded to his Excellency that officer's reply, of which copy is inclosed herewith.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 223.

Prince Cariati to Lord Napier.

Napoli, 17 Luglio, 1848.

IL Sottoscritto, &c., si affretta di rimettere a Lord Napier, &c., copia di una lettera diretta in data del 15 del corrente dal Capitano Codrington al suo collega Ministro della Guerra, intorno alla cattura di un bastimento sul quale trovavasi imbarcato uno stuolo di Siciliani che avevano cooperato a sovvertire l'ordine nelle Calabrie.

Essendo lo "Stromboli" di nuovo partito in commissione, non è possibile interrogare il comandante onde avere esatti schiarimenti su i fatti accaduti e la condotta da esso tenuta. Intanto avendo egli diretto un suo rapporto al Ministro della Marina sull'oggetto, il Sottoscritto ne rimette qui unito la copia al Signor Incaricato di Affari, dalla quale rileverà, che in questa circostanza egli si è esattamente uniformato a quanto suol praticarsi in simili casi dai comandanti de' bastimenti da guerra delle Potenze Marittime, e quindi la sua condotta non può andar soggetta a biasimo di sorta alcuna.

In questo incontro e con suo dispiacere il Sottoscritto stima suo preciso dovere di far osservare al Signor Incaricato d'Affari, che nell'utizio del Signor Capitano Codrington si fa uso verso di Sua Maestà il Rè di titolo diverso da quello riconosciuto da tutt' i Sovrani dell' Europa e sanzionato da tutt' i trattati vigenti.

Piace al Real Governo attribuire ad inavvertenza tale procedimento, ma non saprebbe dispensarsi di adottare quelle disposizioni che giudicherà opportune in sostegno de' dritti e del decoro del Sovrano del Regno delle Due Sicilie, qualora simile errore avesse a rinnovarsi.

Profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PRINCIPE DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, July 17, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., hastens to transmit to Lord Napier, &c., copy of a note of the 15th instant addressed by Captain Codrington to his colleague the Minister of War, respecting the capture of a vessel on board of which were embarked a band of Sicilians who had assisted in exciting a disturbance in Calabria.

As the "Stromboli" has again put to sea it is impossible to examine the commander so as to obtain clear proofs of what has taken place and respecting his conduct on the occasion.

However as he has addressed a report of the affair to the Minister of Marine, the Undersigned transmits herewith a copy to the Chargé d'Affaires, from which he will see that in this case the commander acted in strict accordance with the customary practice of all ships of war belonging to Maritime Powers under such circumstances, and that therefore his conduct cannot in any respect be blamed.

Here however the Undersigned finds it his unpleasant duty to call the attention of the Chargé d'Affaires to the fact that in Captain Codrington's letter His Majesty the King is named by a title different from that which is recognized by all the Sovereigns of Europe and sanctioned by all existing treaties.

The King's Government are willing to attribute this proceeding to mistake, but it will be their duty to adopt those measures which they may deem expedient in support of the rights and honour of the Sovereign of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, should such a mistake be repeated.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE CARIATI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 223.

*Captain Codrington to the Officer commanding the Neapolitan Naval Forces.
at Naples.*

Sir,

"Thetis," Bay of Naples, July 15, 1848.

I HAVE been informed that a Neapolitan man-of-war steamer, the "Stromboli," just arrived in this port from Calabria, has landed thirty Sicilian prisoners, being the principal officers of the Sicilian force recently in arms against the forces of His Majesty the King of Naples in Calabria.

I am further informed that the merchant-vessel containing them was captured by the "Stromboli" in the Ionian waters as she was standing into the Corfu channel, and that for the purpose of effecting the capture of these Sicilians by deceit the "Stromboli" made use of the British flag.

As it is my duty without loss of time to forward a statement of the case to the British Admiral in order that he may take what steps he thinks necessary, it is right that I should warn your Excellency of my intentions at once, as the pressure of circumstances forbids my losing time by awaiting the arrival of more minute details.

I will not dwell on the severe privations and hardships these unfortunate men were made to suffer while prisoners on board the "Stromboli" further than to remark that it contrasts strongly with the humane and generous treatment by the Sicilian forces of the many Neapolitan officers and soldiers made prisoners by them in Sicily. Of the hundreds of Neapolitans fairly taken in open fight by the Sicilians not one was injured. So far from experiencing ill treatment they were, even while the contest was still raging, received with kindness and treated in every instance with respect.

To this I can personally testify in common with the officers in command of the other foreign men-of-war then stationed in Sicily, whose united efforts were successfully devoted to softening as far as possible the horrors of that war.

In the present instance the British flag has been made use of in deception by a Neapolitan man-of-war in Ionian waters to capture these Sicilians.

Your Excellency will not therefore be surprised at my telling you that the circumstance itself and the future fate of the individuals so captured will meet with the most serious attention from the flag which has been thus profaned.

It is not impossible that the chances of war may at some future period place others of His Neapolitan Majesty's troops as prisoners in the hands of the Sicilian forces. It will be for your Excellency to consider how much their fate may then depend on the treatment previously experienced by these Sicilian prisoners, and how far they will be able in their difficulties to invoke as heretofore the countenance of the flag which has been thus disparaged by their own.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. CODRINGTON

Inclosure 3 in No. 223.

Report of the Captain of the "Stromboli."

Copia di rapporto del Tenente di vascello D. Vincenzo Salazar, comandante la Real corvetta a vapore lo "Stromboli," da Reggio, li 13 di Luglio, 1848, No. 200, diretto al Signor Generale D. Pier Luigi Cavalcante, Comandante Superiore della Divisione de' Reali Legni Armati residenti in Reggio stesso e da costui trasmesso a sua Eccellenza il Ministro della Guerra e Marina.

Signor Generale,

IN vista degli ordini ricevuti, a tutta macchina e servendomi delle vele, col vento favorevole, presi la volta di Corfu, cercando l'atterraggio dalla parte del Fano.

Al far del giorno del dì 11 a circa 20 miglia al S.O. della detta isoletta, si scoprì per est un brigantino mercantile che dirigeva per Corfu. Gli diedi

caccia, e dopo mezz' ora fui a vicinanza tale che potei distinguervi a bordo un gran numero di gente armata.

Mi mascherai con bandiera Inglese, e giunto a portata di cannone mi mascherai con assicurare la mia, con un colpo di cannone a polvere, chiamandolo all' ubbidienza. Ma perchè tardò nell' ubbidirmi, stimai tirarne altro a palla, ma non puntando al buco. Là per là ammainò la bandiera, imbroglì le vele e mandò a bordo la lancia col padrone, Salvatore Accetta, del brigantino in questione che si chiama "Gesù e Maria," e col capo drappello, Ignazio Ribotti, che feci subito salire a bordo e me ne assicurai.

Al padrone imposi di restituirsi al suo legno e riunire in mio nome quante armi e munizioni vi fossero, che avrebbe portate al mio bordo di unita a' capi di quella troppa.

Tutto fu eseguito, e mi assicurai di Giacomo Longo, Mariano Delli Franci, Errico Fardella, Tommaso Landi, Francesco Burgio, Ignazio Rivaroli, Francesco Angherà, Ercole Scalia, Salvatore Calvino, Mariano Fiorentino, Stefano di Benedetto, Giuseppe Burgio, Luigi Lauzerotti, Giuseppe Algheria, Donato Ruscio, e gli altri non della stessa condizione al No. di 50 a basso alla stiva con le debite precauzioni e sentinella a vista.

Preso il brigantino a rimorchio già tutti disarmati, stimai non imbarcare altri sul mio legno, sì perchè resi innocui, come per non impegnare molti del mio equipaggio a loro guardia.

In mia vista, a qualche distanza, navigava altro naviglio dirigendo puranche per Corfu, il che mi fece sospettare esser carico di altri rivoltosi. Rimisi la prua sopra, ed a tiro di cannone rilevai essere un trabacolo carico di compagni de' già arrestati. Lo chiamai all' ubbidienza e subito misi alla rilinga per aspettare.

Avvicinatomi mi mandò la sua lancia col padrone Vincenzo Accardi, che mi disse chiamarsi il legno "Santa Maria di Porto Salvo." Gl' imposi d' immediatamente vocare pel suo bordo e di manovrare per presto mettersi a rimorchio del brigantino da me rimorchiato, lo che eseguito presi volta per Capo Spartivento nulla curandomi del disarmo per non perdere prezioso tempo. Messomi a bella via alle 11½ a.m., e già in cognizione che mancassero affatto di viveri ed acqua tutti quelli avventurieri andai sì all' uno che all' altro de' rimorchiati del biscotto, dell' acqua, del cacio, e del vino.

Non debbo trascurare, Signor Generale, di farle sapere che una virtuosa donna di nome Antonietta Regland, tra gli arrestati trovata, la quale volendo dividere col marito qualunque avventura lo seguiva vestita da uomo. Costei è la moglie di Guccione, venuta al mio bordo in compagnia del marito, fu cortesemente accompagnata dal più vecchio de' miei ufficiali (Farina) nella camera di poppa, come la decenza esigea. Dimandò in grazia di non essere scompartagnata dal consorto al che l'umanità mi dettò, essendo incinta, farla paga. Alle 11 a. m. del 12 calmatosi alquanto il vento e già vicino a Capo Stile, volli profittare del tempo che mi dette una quasi calma, per provvedere i due rimorchiati di viveri ed acqua, e dispogliare il trabacolo di armi e munizione, e far venire al mio bordo un altro de' capi del drappello, Principe Carlo Grammonte di Palermo; più altri al servizio chiamati dagli arrestati e trattieneuti al mio bordo.

L'operazione seguita diressi per Reggio dove ho ancorato alle ore 6 a. m.

Fra le tante cose che si dicono, e moltissime false, mi si è detto che a bordo al trabacolo, siasi da' rivoltosi sfasciata una cassa contenente ducati 12,000, che si abbiano tra loro divisi. Io nol credo, ma pel diritto di guerra, il predatore avendo diritto sul denaro ed oggetti di lusso, propongo che ciascuno de' rivoltosi sia diligentemente visitato, e della moneta che potrà raccorsi dividerla giusta le leggi in vigore agli individui del mio equipaggio.

Non mi resta, Signor Generale, che attestarle sulla mia coscienza e sul mio onore, che sono stato ottimamente ben secondato dal Capitano Cacace, dagli ufficiali Farina e Pucci, dal primo pilota Sorvillo, dal nostromo, dal contestabile sergente incaricato della truppa, che raccomando, e dagli individui tutti componenti l'equipaggio del legno di mio comando, de' quali raccomando alla di lei alta protezione i due Todisco piloti mercantili imbarcati uno da 2° e l'altro da 3°, ed il Guardiano Pesante, che si buttò nella lancia in ajuto del trabacolo perchè prendesse presto il rimorchio dal brigantino, essendo quella gente tuttavia armata.

Il Tenente, &c.

(Firmato) VINCENZO SALAZAR.
3 C

(Translation.)

COPY of the Report of Lieutenant Vincenzo Salazar, commanding the steam corvette "Stromboli," dated Reggio, July 13, 1848, and addressed to General Pier Luigi Cavalcante, commanding the division of ships of war stationed at Reggio, and by him transmitted to his Excellency the Minister of War and Marine.

General,

ACCORDING to my instructions I shaped my course to Corfu at full speed, making use of the sails as the wind was favourable and taking soundings near Fano.

On the morning of the 11th at daybreak, at about twenty miles to the south-west of the said islet, was discovered to the eastward a mercantile brigantine on its way to Corfu. I gave chase and in half an hour was near enough to discover on board a great number of armed men.

I disguised myself under English colours and on arriving within gun-shot I discovered myself and hoisting my own colours fired blank cartridges at them to bring them to. As however they delayed obeying I thought proper to fire a shot, without however aiming at them. Immediately they hauled down the flag, lay to, and sent a boat on board with Salvatore Accetta, master of the said brigantine, which is called the "Gesù e Maria," and with Ignazio Ribotti, a chief of the band, whom I made immediately come on board and took prisoner.

I ordered the master to go back to his ship and collect in my name whatever arms and ammunition there might be, and to bring them on board my ship together with the chiefs of the band.

This was obeyed, and I got possession of Giacomo Longo, Mariano delli Franci, Errico Fardella, Tomaso Landi, Francesco Burgia, Ignazio Rivaroli, Francesco Arigheri, Ercole Scalia, Salvatore Calvino, Mariano Fiorentino, Stefano di Benedetto, Giuseppe Burgio, Luigi Lanzerotti, Giuseppe Algheria, Donato Ruscio, and others not of the same class up to the number of fifty, and placed them below in the hold with due precaution, and guarded at sight by sentinels.

After taking the brigantine in tow I did not think it right to embark any more of them on board my ship, as they had already been all of them disarmed and were consequently harmless, and also as I did not wish to employ too many of my men in keeping guard upon them.

In sight, at some distance, was another vessel also shaping its course for Corfu, which made me suspect that it had other rebels on board. I made for her, and when within gun-shot I discovered her to be a decked boat on board of which were the friends of those I had already seized; I brought her to and lay-to myself to wait.

When she came near she sent her boat on board with the master Vincenzo Accardi, who informed me that the vessel was the "Santa Maria di Porto Salvo." I ordered him to return immediately on board and to lash himself immediately to the brigantine I had in tow, which he did. I then shaped my course for Cape Spartivento without waiting to disarm them, so as not to lose precious time. I got under weigh at half-past 11 a.m. and found out that all these adventurers were in want of provisions and water, and so sent to both the vessels I had in tow a supply of biscuit, water, cheese, and wine.

It is also my duty, General, to inform you that a virtuous woman, by name Antonietta Regland, was amongst the prisoners, who being determined to share her husband's adventures had followed him in man's clothes.

She is the wife of Guccione, and came on board with her husband. She was kindly accompanied by the oldest of my officers (Farina) to the stern cabin, as decency required. She begged not to be separated from her husband, and as she was in the family-way humanity prompted me to accede to her request.

At 11 in the morning of the 12th instant, as the wind had lulled and I was close to Capo Stile, I wished to profit by the occasion which a perfect calm afforded me of providing the two vessels I had in tow with provisions and water, and taking from the decked boat all arms and ammunitions. I also caused to come on board another of the chiefs, Prince Carlo Grammonte of

Palemo, and others in their service who were called by the prisoners and kept on board my ship, which being done I stood for Reggio and anchored there at 6 A.M.

Amongst the many falsehoods which were told it was stated that on board the decked boat, the rebels had broken open a box containing 12,000 ducats and divided it amongst themselves. I did not believe it; but as according to the laws of war the captor has a right to money and objects of luxury, I proposed that each of the rebels should be diligently searched, and any money which might be found divided amongst my crew according to law.

Nothing more remains, General, but for me to assure you in my conscience and on my honour that I have been most ably seconded by Captain Cacace, by the officers Farina and Pucci, by the 1st pilot Sorvillo, by the boatswain, and by the sergeant commanding the marines, whom I recommend to your notice, as also by all the individuals composing the crew of the ship under my command, among whom I recommend to your protection the two Todisco, mercantile pilots, who were on board as second and third pilots, and the Gnardiano Pesante who jumped into the boat to help the small vessel, and lashed into to the brigantine whilst the people were all armed.

The Lieutenant Commander,
(Signed) V. SALAZAR.

Inclosure 4 in No. 223.

Prince Cariatì to Lord Napier.

Napoli, 17 Luglio, 1848.

IL Sottoscritto, &c., trovasi di aver già risposta alla prima parte della nota in data di quest'oggi di Lord Napier, &c., relativa ai Siciliani catturati dallo "Stromboli."

In riscontro poi alla seconda parte con la quale chiede la facoltà di interrogare direttamente alcuni de' essi, il Sottoscritto ha l'onore di rimettere al Signor Incaricato di Affari, copia di un ufficio del Ministro di Grazia e Giustizia, del quale rileverà i motivi che a norma delle vigenti leggi si oppongono per ora al suo desiderio.

Profitta egli, &c. (Firmato) PRINCIPE DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, July 17, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has already replied to the first part of the note of Lord Napier and of this day's date respecting the Sicilians captured by the "Stromboli."

In reply then to the second part in which the Chargé d'Affaires asks to be allowed to put certain questions to some of them, the Undersigned has the honour to transmit to him copy of a letter from the Minister of Grace and Justice, by which he will see the reasons which according to the existing laws forbid this Government for the present to satisfy his wishes.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) PRINCE CARIATI.

Inclosure 5 in No. 223.

The Minister of Justice to Prince Cariatì.

Eccellenza,

Napoli, 17 di Luglio, 1848.

IN riscontro all'ufficio di questo giorno ho l'onore di referire all'Eccellenza vostra che il desiderio dello Incaricato di Affari di Sua Maestà Britannica non può venire esaudito in presenza delle leggi del nostro paese, le quali non permettono che alcuno, non escluso il difensore, conferisca con gli imputati primo delle interrogatorio ch'egli debbono subire davanti al giudice com-

petente, e molto più innanzi che proceda la sottoposizione all' accusa per l'Articolo 166 delle Leggi di Procedura Penale.

Non vi è dubbio che le circostanze indicate nello ufficio succennate possono essere rilevate come mezzi di disciolpa degli arrestati, ma nello stato attuale dell' affare tornerebbe allo stesso che distruggere i principi de ragion penale e le disposizioni del nostro Codice in vigore, udirsi da persone incompetenti, in luogo degli ufiziali di polizia giudiziani i discarichi degli imprigionati.

(Firmato) NICOLA GIGLI.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Naples, July 17, 1848.

IN answer to your letter of this day's date I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the request of Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires cannot be granted on account of the laws of the country, which do not permit that any one, not even the counsel for the defence, should confer with accused persons before the examination which they must undergo before the competent judges, and still less before the accusation is brought before the court according to the 166th Article of the Penal Law.

There is no doubt that the circumstances mentioned may be brought forward in defence of the accused, but in the present state of things it would amount to a total subversion of all the principles of penal law and of all the regulations of the existing Code, should the defence of the prisoners be heard by incompetent persons instead of the officers of the judicial police.

(Signed) NICOLA GIGLI.

Inclosure 6 in No. 223.

Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.

Naples, July 17, 1848.

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of two notes from his Excellency Prince Cariati, &c., of this day's date, one containing copy of a letter addressed to the officer in command of the naval forces of His Sicilian Majesty at Naples by Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," and copy of the report of the officer in command of the Neapolitan steam vessel of war "Stromboli," the other inclosing a communication from his Excellency the Minister of Grace and Justice.

The report of Captain Salazar of the "Stromboli" avers that at day-break on the morning of the 11th instant, about twenty miles from Corfu, he hove in sight of a brigantine, on approaching which he discovered that she had on board a great number of armed men; on this the "Stromboli" hoisted British colours, and having come up within gun-shot she hauled them down and having fired first with blank cartridge and then with ball, took possession of the prize.

Assuming this account to be literally correct the Undersigned must take the liberty of marking his dissatisfaction with the use made of the flag of Her Britannic Majesty. The Undersigned will not at present deny the right of belligerents to display hostile or even neutral colours for the purpose of deception. He reserves the question for the judgment of Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker; but such a disguise is practised, if practised at all, either to elude the vigilance or surprise the security of an enemy of superior force, or to compel a vessel of a suspicious and doubtful character to unmask herself; but the Commander of the "Stromboli" had no such motives, he confronted no powerful or mysterious antagonist, he had simply overtaken a vessel which he had been dispatched to chase, he recognised her, she was full of starving and helpless fugitives, he had only to run alongside and take possession, and consequently the exhibition of the British ensign must surely be regarded as a superfluous and discreditable act of precaution, and neither Her Britannic Majesty's Government nor the Commander-in-chief of the British Naval Forces will see with indifference that flag made the instrument of a gratuitous artifice.

The employment of a neutral and friendly ensign ought to be exercised with uncommon delicacy and discretion on all occasions, and the Undersigned would have learned with satisfaction that the Neapolitan Government had spontaneously marked their condemnation of the course which Captain Salazar so unnecessarily pursued.

But without offence to the veracity of an officer of the Navy of His Sicilian Majesty the Undersigned deemed himself justified in a matter where the credit of the British flag is involved in completing his information by an appeal to the testimony of the opposite party, also spectators of the transaction, and with this view he requested his Excellency Prince Cariati to permit him to confer with two gentlemen who are among the number of the Sicilian prisoners. This liberty has been refused to the Undersigned, and the reason alleged is that all access to individuals arrested under imputation of crime is forbidden to every person by the existing Neapolitan law until the preliminary examination and the charge have been regularly framed.

The object of such a regulation is transparent. It is to prevent the premature production by designing or incompetent persons of statements affecting the safety of the parties concerned, or the combination of evidence to shield their guilt; but the object which the Undersigned has in view is entirely separate and independent of the innocence or criminality of the accused; the Undersigned can neither appear as testimony, as prosecutor, or as counsel; it is not a criminal but an international question which he has before him; he is not handling the matter of invasion or rebellion, but the treatment of the British flag; it is not the conduct of the Sicilians but the conduct of the Neapolitan captain that he has in view.

Considering then the exceptional position of the Undersigned as the Representative of a Foreign Power, and the distinct nature of his inquiry, which is one not at all within the competence of a Neapolitan Court of Law, the Undersigned cannot doubt that the authority of his Excellency the Minister of Grace and Justice could be exercised in providing for him the facility of conference with the persons mentioned above, and the Undersigned is the more desirous that this advantage should be granted to him because until the report of the Neapolitan officer be corroborated and fortified by the declaration of other parties he will not be enabled to submit to his Government a perfectly satisfactory proof that an undue appropriation of the British ensign has not been made, or that acts of hostility have not been exercised under it, and the Undersigned again has the honour to solicit from Prince Cariati his Excellency's intervention in the proper quarter to procure for him the liberty of an interview with M. Ribotti and M. Fardella, in the hope that on a more mature consideration of the case the Government of His Sicilian Majesty will find reason to alter their previous resolution.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

Inclosure 7 in No. 223.

Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.

Naples, July 18, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to inclose herewith for the information of his Excellency the Prince di Cariati, &c., copy of a letter from Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," disclaiming any intention to refuse to Her Majesty the King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies any of the titles sanctioned by Treaty and recognised by Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

His Excellency Prince Cariati will also remark that Captain Codrington has not been convinced or satisfied by the report of the officer in command of the "Stromboli" stating the manner in which the British ensign was employed for the decoy and seizure of two small vessels under Sicilian colours; he maintains that additional and corroborative evidence ought to be adduced from the opposite quarter to prove that acts of hostility were not perpetrated under his flag. The Undersigned has already stated that he shares that opinion, and he is prepared to learn that the Commander-in-chief of Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces will adopt a similar view.

Some inquiry will also be necessary to verify the exact position of the respective ships, for reports have reached the Undersigned which would go to prove that the second and smaller vessel at least was taken in Ionian waters.

The most natural and easy solution of such doubts would be found in the testimony of the gentlemen with whom the Undersigned has already desired to be allowed to confer, but should the Neapolitan Government persist in refusing that facility, it cannot but awaken a suspicion that there is some object to conceal; and his Excellency Prince Cariati would do well to consider whether it would be prudent before a perfect verification of the facts to proceed to condemn two vessels seized under the dubious use of British colours, or to deal with those whom they contained as a lawful capture.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 8 in No. 223.

Captain Codrington to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Thetis," Naples, July 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of this day's date, inclosing the reply of the Neapolitan Government to my letter of the 15th instant respecting the case of the capture of certain Sicilians.

I have attentively perused the inclosed report made by the officer in command of the Neapolitan steamer "*Stromboli*," which is at variance with the information I have received as to the material facts, and I regret to find by your letter that the Neapolitan Government have refused the request, which for the purposes of just inquiry your Lordship had made for permission to visit the Sicilian prisoners, accompanied by myself.

Being thus debarred from access to the testimony of the Sicilians, and having seen the extraordinary way in which the "*Stromboli*" was hurried away from this port on that night, by being, while temporarily unable to use her own engines, towed out to sea by another steamer, I am sorry to say that after the experience of the last six months, I cannot receive as satisfactory and conclusive the report of the Commander of the "*Stromboli*," nor rely on it as a statement of facts, until corroborated by the free evidence of other parties, as pointed out by your Lordship to the Neapolitan Government.

His Excellency the Prince Cariati has condescended to remark on my having used the term of "the Government of His Majesty the King of Naples" instead of the more extended list of "titles recognised by all the Sovereigns of Europe and sanctioned by all existing Treaties." To this observation his Excellency added that which I cannot construe otherwise than as a warning of a somewhat threatening character.

However uncalled for by the occasion and inappropriate to the character of a British officer I may think this part of his Excellency's communication, a respect to the station he holds, induces me to explain that in using in the body of my letter the expression of "the Government of His Majesty the King of Naples," I did so as a matter of course, for the sake of brevity, and that it neither was nor is my intention to question His Majesty's right to the title of "King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies," or to any other titles, so long as they are acknowledged by the Government under whom I am serving.

It is hardly necessary for me to add that it is my duty to lay the whole of these communications as speedily as possible before the British Commander-in-chief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CODRINGTON.

Inclosure 9 in No. 223.

*Prince Cariati to Lord Napier.**Napoli, li 19 Luglio, 1848.*

IL Sottoscritto, Ministro, &c., ha ricevuto le note direttegli in data del 17 e 18 del corrente da Lord Napier, &c., non che copia della lettera del Capitano Codrington della stessa data, relativa alla cattura di due bastimenti su de' quali erano imbarcati i Siciliani che avevano ultimamente tentato de sovvertire l'ordine pubblico in Calabria, e promuovervi la guerra civile.

In riscontro delle medesime il Sottoscritto è nel dovere di fare osservare al Signor Incaricato di Affari, che non può rinvocarsi in dubbio l'uso ammesso in tutte le marine militari, ed in ogni tempo consegnato e prescritto nelle ordinanze e libri di segnale di potersi servir dello stratagemma d'inalberare in taluni casi una bandiera diversa dalla propria. E però obbligatorio, e conforme a' principj di dritto internazionale, di non incominciare le operazioni militari se non con la propria bandiera, la quale dec, nel momento che viene inalberata, assicurarsi con un colpo di cannone.

Sarebbe il comandante dello "Stromboli" incorso nel biasimo, soltanto se nel covrirsi de' colori della Gran Bretagna nell'incominciare la caccia dei due legni carichi di Siciliani avesse quei colori assicurati col cannone. Ciò non avendo avuto luogo, è indubitato che il Comandante dello "Stromboli" si è mantenuto nelle strette regole consegnate dalle leggi e consuetudini marittime-militari generalmente praticate o ricevute; ed a convalidare tale opinione sarebbe facile recare in mezzo numerosi esempj tratti dalla storia dell'ultima guerra Anglo-Americana.

In quanto alla chiesta facoltà d'interrogarsi dal Signor Incaricato d'Affari e da un ufficiale della Real Marina Britannica i detenuti prima che sieno stati sottoposti agli esami de' giudici competenti e compilato il corrispondente processo, è, al credere del Sottoscritto, un caso affatto nuovo in un Governo libero ed indipendente. Il Real Governo non saprebbe acconsentirvi senza ledere i propri dritti, e senza recare grave offesa alla imparzialità ed inviolabilità delle vigenti leggi. I motivi addotti nella lettera del Ministero di Grazia e Giustizia in data del 17 corrente sono abbastanza chiari e precisi per rendere inutile una più lunga discussione sul proposito.

Oltre poi i motivi legali, è da osservare che il solo mostrarsi di diplomatici ed uffiziali Inglesi, qualunque fosse il loro grado e le interrogazioni che si limitassero a rivolgere a' Siciliani, sarebbero sufficienti a destare nel loro animo le più ardite speranze, e quindi indurli a mascherare il vero.

D'altronde se il Signor Incaricato di Affari ed il Signor Codrington potessero, contri ogni dritto, dubitare della veracità del rapporto di un onorato uffiziale della Real Marina perchè parte interessata, come poi ripor potrebbero intera fede ne' detti degl' incolpati, i quali hanno naturalmente ben altro interesse a narrare i fatti nel senso ad essi favorevole, ed in opposizione alla relazione del Comandante dello "Stromboli," non che a detrimento del vero, onde vie maggiormente procacciarsi la protezione degli agenti Britannici?

A titolo di reciprocità il Sottoscritto sarebbe benanche in diritto di chiedere a Lord Napier ed al Capitano Codrington l'indicazione delli sorgenti a cui attingono le informazioni intorno ai modi seguiti dal Comandante dello "Stromboli" nel predare i Siciliani, mentre si può supporre con fondamento che queste provengono da persone che sotto svariati pretesti, od a soddisfazione delle proprie passioni, sono interessate ad adoperarsi in favore della causa Siciliana.

Da qualunque lato vogliasi quindi imparzialmente esaminare la quistione, diviene manifesto che solo mezzo di conoscere la verità de' fatti, è quello di lasciare pieno e libero il corso a' procedimenti della giustizia amministrata da tribunali competenti e secondo il rito stabilito dalla legge.

Si osserva ancora nella nota di Lord Napier essere stati i Siciliani catturati nelle acque delle Isole Ionie. Non può esserle ignoto che mentre tutti i pubblicisti antichi e moderni limitano il possesso della estensione del mare territoriale adiacente alle coste alla distanza di un tiro di cannone, cioè a tre miglia dalla terra, che è sicuramente il maggior tratto che possa percorrere una palla, incolpar non si può il Comandante dello "Stromboli" di aver predati i summen-

zionati legni alla distanza di venti miglia dalla costa, e quindi rendesi inutile ogni ulteriore discussione sul proposito.

Si augura il Sottoscritto che le riflessioni contenute nella presente, ed esposte senza spirito di animosità o di malevolenza, saranno sufficienti a troncare una discussione in cui ambi le parti possono non essere animati che dall' amore del vero, dall' umanità e dalla giustizia.

Egli profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PRINCIPE DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, July 19, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has received the notes of the 17th and 18th instant addressed to him by Lord Napier, as well as copy of a letter from Captain Codrington of the same date, respecting the capture of two ships on board of which were the Sicilians who lately made an attempt to overturn the Government in Calahria and excite there a civil war.

In answer to those notes the Undersigned finds it his duty to call the attention of the Chargé d'Affaires to the fact of its being the established custom in all navies, and moreover ordered and prescribed by general instructions and in books of signals, to have recourse in certain cases to the stratagem of hoisting the flag of another country, with the obligation, however, according to the rules of international law, of not beginning any military operations without hoisting the national flag, which must be accompanied with a cannon-shot at the moment when it is hoisted.

The Commander of the "Stromboli" would be liable to blame only if, in making use of the English colours at the commencement of the chase after the two vessels on board of which were the Sicilians, he had accompanied the hoisting of those colours with a cannon-shot. But this not having taken place it is beyond all doubt that the Commander of the "Stromboli" has confined himself to the strict rules of the maritime and military laws and customs generally in use and commonly received, and in support of this opinion it would be easy to bring forward numerous examples from the history of the last American War.

With respect to the faculty of interrogating the prisoners which is demanded by the Chargé d'Affaires and an officer of the British Navy, before that they shall have been submitted to examination by competent judges and the charge duly compiled, such a demand to a free and independent Government is in the opinion of the Undersigned unprecedented. The King's Government could not consent thereto without derogating from its own rights and without a grievous offence against the inviolability and impartiality of the existing laws.

The motives specified in the letter of the Minister of Grace and Justice of the 17th instant are sufficiently clear and explicit to render all further discussion on the subject useless.

In addition also to the legal objections, it is clear that the appearance alone of English diplomatists and officers, whatever be their rank and whatever questions they might confine themselves to putting to the Sicilians, would be sufficient to raise in their minds the most extravagant hopes and thereby induce them to hide the truth.

And moreover should the Chargé d'Affaires and Captain Codrington, contrary to all rule, call in question the veracity of the statement of a respectable officer of the King's Navy as being an interested party in the affair, how could they repose implicit confidence in the words of the accused, who have naturally an evident interest in narrating the facts in the sense most favourable to themselves and different from the account of the Commander of the "Stromboli," and in stating that which is not true so as to secure still more the protection of the British agents?

On the principle of reciprocity the Undersigned would also have the right to demand from Lord Napier and Captain Codrington the sources from whence they derive their information respecting the course pursued by the Commander of the "Stromboli" in capturing the Sicilians, as there is good reason to suppose that they proceed from persons who under divers pretexts or to satisfy their private passions are interested in exerting themselves in favour of the Sicilian cause.

Whatever view may be impartially taken of the question, it becomes

evident that the only means of arriving at the truth of what has taken place is to leave unshackled the course of justice as it is administered by the competent tribunals and according to the forms established by law.

It is also mentioned in Lord Napier's note that the Sicilians were captured in Ionian waters. He must however be aware that since all ancient and modern writers limit the possession of the sea around the coasts to the distance of cannon-shot, that is to say three miles from the land, which is certainly the greatest distance a gun can carry, the Commander of the "Stromboli" cannot be blamed for having captured the above-mentioned vessels at the distance of twenty miles from the land, which renders any further discussion upon the subject needless.

The Undersigned hopes that the observations contained in this note, which are advanced without any spirit of animosity or malevolence, will suffice to put an end to a discussion in which neither party can be animated by any other feeling than by the love of truth, humanity, and justice.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE CARIATI.

No. 224.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 20, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a letter which I have received from M. Stabile, in which I am requested to pave the way to an intervention whereby the hostile projects of the King of Naples towards Sicily may be prevented.

I have answered M. Stabile through Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, stating that I cannot embark in any transaction of the kind without your Lordship's express instructions.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 224.

M. Stabile to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, July 17, 1848.

BY a French steamer which this evening leaves this port for Naples, Vice-Admiral Parker writes you to demand from the Neapolitan Government that the Sicilians captured by the Neapolitan steamer should be treated as prisoners of war and with every regard and humanity, since we have always treated in the same manner all the Neapolitans that have come into our hands during the Revolution.

The Sicilians had been recalled from Calabria. They embarked on two small vessels and were proceeding to Corfu to avoid meeting with any Neapolitan steamer. Within four miles from Corfu they were decoyed by one Neapolitan steamer that hoisted the English flag, and under that belief they were easily seized.

I beg you will do your utmost to save them from any cruelty that they may be exposed to at the hands of the Government at Naples, and do everything in your power to have them released. The Minister from France has also been requested to join you in the demand.

I must inform you at the same time that this Government has written to our Agents at London, Paris, and Turin, to apply to the several Cabinets and request their friendly interposition for a speedy termination of the useless war which the Government of Naples intends to pursue still at Messina.

We hear also vague rumours of an armament making in Naples, apparently for Calabria, but with the intention of trying an invasion of Sicily. Will you be so good as to give me all the information you are able to get on this subject by the return of the French steamer if possible.

It would also be advisable, in case you think fit so to do, to prepare the way to that interposition with the Government of Naples, which as I have mentioned already, we have requested from your Government by our Agents at London, and about which I hope you will soon receive instructions from England.

Please to do all that is possible to send the inclosed to Signor Enrico Fardella, brother to the Marquis of Torrearsa, Speaker of our House of Commons, who is one of the prisoners. You can also give him all the money that he may want, both for himself and the other prisoners. We take the liberty to request this favour from you, having at this moment no one in Naples that would willingly oblige us.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. STABILE.

No. 225.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 22, 1848.

IN reply to the application made by me to the Neapolitan Government, as stated in my despatch of the 27th June, that the forced loan might not be levied on Her Majesty's subjects until your Lordship's sentiments could be ascertained, I received a note stating, for reasons now no longer worthy of detail, that the Neapolitan Government intended to exact that imposition from all foreign as well as native subjects.

The repudiation of the contribution was made forthwith, and notices served upon Her Majesty's subjects. On the 13th instant there was placed in my hands a letter from Lord Eddisbury to Mr. Pattison, Member of Parliament for the city of London, wherein it was declared that Her Majesty's Government held the claim of British subjects to be exempt from the payment of the forced loan to be a good and valid claim, and that instructions would be sent to me in that sense.

I lost no time in imparting this letter to Prince Cariati, and I begged his Excellency to arrest the proceedings until further information. Quite the contrary occurred; soldiers, who demanded money, were placed at the doors of Her Majesty's subjects, and they were for several days menaced with confiscation of their goods; at length, notwithstanding my repeated expostulations, these visits were repeated with greater rigour, and the property of several merchants was actually laid under sequestration, and prepared for sale.

I consequently addressed the inclosed note to Prince Cariati, holding his Government responsible for reimbursement and compensation. I at the same time pointed out to the Minister of Russia, the only foreign Representative totally uninterested in the question, having none of his nation resident at Naples, how preposterous was the conduct of the Neapolitan Government in refusing to wait a few days, and in driving on the most violent means to exact an imposition which they were plainly, though indirectly, informed Her Majesty's Government refused to acknowledge as applicable under the Treaty; and I begged his Excellency, if he desired to be of service to the Government of Naples, to warn them of the consequences of their conduct, for neither Her Majesty's Legation nor the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces could see British subjects plundered with impunity in direct contradiction of the known will of their Government.

Count Chreptowitch was so good as to speak to His Majesty the King and M. Bozzelli, which saved me the pain of communicating with them in person; and the happy result of our united remonstrances was soon apparent, for I this morning received the accompanying note from Prince Cariati, acquainting me that his Government had abandoned the forced loan altogether.

Your Lordship's instruction of the 12th instant, stating at length the reasons for which Her Majesty's Government deny the liability of British subjects to such impositions reached me at the same moment, and I have transmitted a copy of it to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The resolution of the Neapolitan Cabinet has given even greater satisfaction

mong their own subjects than among foreigners, for the shopkeepers and householders have suffered severely from the general suspension of industry and business.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inelasure 1 in No. 225.

Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.

Naples, July 20, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a note of yesterday's date from his Excellency Prince Cariati, &c., in which the Undersigned is referred to his Excellency's previous communication of the 9th instant, stating that it is the intention of the Neapolitan Government to levy the forced loan on foreign as well as native subjects.

The Undersigned has observed with some surprise that Prince Cariati has passed over in silence the accompanying letter from the Under Secretary of State to one of the Members for the city of London, of which the Undersigned had the honour to impart a copy personally to his Excellency, and which plainly, though indirectly, acquainted the Government of His Sicilian Majesty that Her Britannic Majesty's Government regard the claim of British subjects to be exempted from the payment of the present loan as a valid claim; and that instructions would be forwarded to the Undersigned in that sense. It seems to the Undersigned that it would have been more consistent with prudence, and with the courtesy due to the opinion of a friendly Government, to have suspended the enforcement of the above-mentioned imposition until the question could be discussed and brought to an amicable solution; but the Undersigned has this morning learned to his great regret, that far from taking such a considerate and friendly course, the agents of the Neapolitan Government are become more pressing in the demand of the loan, and that soldiers are placed at the door of Her Britannic Majesty's subjects, who are threatened with execution; the Undersigned has therefore deemed it right to inform Her Britannic Majesty's subjects that they are at liberty to resist by every lawful means in their power to allow their goods to be sequestered, and to pay nothing on compulsion; and the Undersigned hereby holds the Government of His Sicilian Majesty responsible for reimbursement of any value seized by its officers, and for any compensation in the way of interest, damage, or personal indemnity, which the Government of Her Britannic Majesty may see fit to demand.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) NAPIER.

Inelasure 2 in No. 225.

Prince Cariati to Lord Napier.

Napoli, li 21 Luglio, 1848.

IL Sottoscritto, &c., si affretta prevenire Lord Napier, &c., che avendo il Real Governo prese altre disposizione intorno al prestito forzoso che ha risoluto di annullare per misura generale, i negozianti esteri che si troveranno di aver già pagata la quota ad essi imposta, potranno dirigersi al Ministro delle Finanze, onde porre in regola i loro interessi.

Il Sottoscritto, &c. (Firmato) PPE. DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, July 21, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., hastens to inform Lord Napier, &c., that the Neapolitan Government having adopted other resolutions respecting the forced loan which they have decided to annul as a general measure, foreign merchants who may have already paid the share allotted to them, may address themselves to the Minister of Finance, in order to settle their accounts.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) PPE. OF CARIATI.

No. 226.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 22, 1848.

FOUR of the prisoners taken on board the Sicilian vessels by the Neapolitan steam vessel of war "Stromboli" have been tried by court-martial on the charge of deserting from the King's army and joining the rebel forces. One of these has been liberated and another sent to the ordinary criminal tribunal. The remaining two, by name Longo and Delli Franci, were found guilty and condemned to death. Their sentence has this morning been graciously commuted by His Majesty the King, which has given general satisfaction in all classes except the army. A deputation of officers is said to have gone to the Palace to demand their execution; it is certain that it was strongly advocated by General Filangieri and the leaders of the military party.

The capture having been made by the surreptitious employment of the British flag as a decoy, your Lordship may think that I had a just pretext for interfering more emphatically on behalf of the prisoners, and indeed I would have done so had I not been assured by Prince Cariati, in a way which left no doubt upon my mind, that they would not be treated with any extreme severity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 227.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 23, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo giving some account respectively of the modifications of the Statute and the election of the King, and of the commercial and agricultural state of the country.

By Mr. Goodwin's and Mr. Jeans' reports it would seem that the landholder has not suffered sensibly from the Revolution, the slight deficit in rents having been made good by the surplus produce of an abundant harvest; and that the peasantry have been benefited by a rise in the wages of labour caused by the withdrawal of a number of hands from profitable industry. This must however be regarded as a hollow and illusory advantage.

The learned and trading classes have incurred heavy losses by the suspension of litigation and commerce. It is equally the case at Naples and all over Italy.

Mr. Goodwin does not speak of any unusual frequency of crime, nor have reports to that effect reached me from other quarters, and I am induced to believe that considering the facilities and temptations offered by a period of general convulsion and suspension of regular government, Sicily has been remarkably free from outrages against person and property. In the neighbourhood of Palermo some cases of highway robbery have occurred, which have been vigorously suppressed by the national guard.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 227.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, July 13, 1848.

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship that the General Parliament of Sicily had called the Duke of Genoa to the throne under the title of Albert Amedeus, the First, King of the Sicilians by the Constitution of the Kingdom.

I have now the honour to lay before your Lordship a few particulars

derived from authentic source, in addition to those which your Lordship will find in the 94th No. of the "Indipendenza e Lega."

The President of the Commons stated on taking the chair on the 10th that the national guard, the naval force and the troops of all arms were anxious that the Statute should be completed and the King elected as speedily as possible.

A message from the Chamber of Peers proposing that the Statute should be completed that day and the election of a King take place the next morning, received for answer that both objects should be accomplished before the Chamber broke up, and that the sittings should be permanent and uninterrupted.

Three titles of the Statute out of eight, viz., Religion and Independence, Legislation and Executive Power, had already passed, there remained five others, viz., Judicial Power, Sundry Constitutional Safeguards, Civil Liberty, Revision of the Statute and Temporary Matters to set to rights, and these were gone through rapidly and were confirmed by the Peers. Three Articles alone were exempted, viz., the 1st. that the Roman Catholic should be the religion of the State; the 5th clause of 11th, that the number of Representatives established by the Constitution of 1812 should continue to be chosen by communes which elected Members under the Constitution of 1812, although such communes might have less than 6000 souls and might not be market towns; and on the 28th, that all laws relative to the revenue and expenditure of the State and strength of the army and navy should begin in the Chamber of Deputies and receive the assent or dissent without modification of the Chamber of Senators. To the first of these Articles it was proposed to add "exclusive of any other religion," the second it was wished to strike out, and the third to alter.

To compass these ends twenty Peers, spiritual and temporal, were sent down to the Commons to meet as many Deputies. The meeting took place in public and lasted about an hour. Fears were entertained of a tie between the two parties, in which case an umpire would have had to be elected. Luckily for peace and quietness, the Duca di Monteleone went over to the Commons and gave them an absolute majority. The first Article accordingly stood its ground; the second and third were uncontested, and the work of reform was complete. The names were then called over; each Deputy was invited to name an Italian Prince. The Duke of Genoa was chosen *nem. diss.*, and the choice of the Commons was ratified by the Peers. The Chambers broke up at 2 o'clock in the morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 227.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, July 15, 1848.

A THREATENED outbreak of a Republican party at Catania has been prevented by the Commissioner of the Executive, who has arrested two or three of the ringleaders and thrown them into prison, and has doubled the sentinels and strengthened the patrols by which the fortress and the town are respectively guarded.

The Republican party at Catania, which consists of people who have made money by the late Revolution, is highly unpopular with the National Guard, which is zealous for the restoration of Monarchical Government, as the best guarantee for public order and private tranquillity. The news of the election of a King has accordingly been received by the Catanese public with lively satisfaction and general rejoicings.

An account of the condition of the people drawn up by *Vicc-Consul Jeans* may be acceptable at the present moment when Sicilian affairs are an interesting subject.

The nobles and the landlords have suffered but little by the late Revolution. A few indeed have not got their rents in; but as almost all farm their own estates, and as most of the crops are more than good this year, the deficiency in rent is covered by the abundance of produce.

The merchants and traders and the lawyers and employés have been severe

sufferers by political changes. The stoppage of foreign trade in general and of that with Trieste in particular has done much harm to the wholesale and retail dealer as well as to the broker and lighterman, while the suspension of law proceedings and the dissolution and reconstruction of courts and tribunals have put the lawyers to heavy loss and inconvenience. Many of the employés have been dismissed from office and others have been placed on reduced allowances.

The working class has, strange to say, derived great benefit from the recent changes. A steady demand for labour has been accompanied by a rise in the rate of wages and a fall in the price of provisions. The former has been occasioned by the institutions of a municipal guard and military force, and the latter by the inestimable blessing of an abundant harvest.

The crop of wheat this year is larger and better than that of former seasons. Soft wheat used chiefly for fancy bread and pastry, and weighing 48 lbs. per imperial bushel, sells for 26s. per imperial quarter; hard wheat used for household bread and macaroni and weighing 50 lbs. per imperial bushel, sells from 30s. to 34s. per imperial quarter; barley used for provender and weighing 43 lbs. per imperial bushel, sells for 13s. per imperial quarter; and beans consumed by the labourer in husbandry and weighing 46 lbs. per imperial bushel, sell for 14s. per imperial quarter. All the necessaries of life are much cheaper at present than they were at this time last year: thus macaroni which was $2\frac{1}{2}d.$, $3d.$ and $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per rotolo ($1\frac{1}{2}lb.$ avoirdupois) for ordinary, good and fine qualities, sells now for $1\frac{3}{4}d.$, $2\frac{1}{4}d.$ and $3d.$; bread which was $2\frac{1}{2}d.$, $2\frac{3}{4}d.$ and $3\frac{1}{4}d.$ per rotolo for coarse, common and fine, sells now for $1\frac{1}{2}d.$, $2d.$ and $3d.$; beef which was per rotolo $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ with bone, $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ without bone, and $8\frac{1}{2}d.$ for fillet, sells now for $5\frac{1}{2}d.$, $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ and $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ respectively; olive oil has fallen from $9\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $7\frac{1}{2}d.$, and cheese from $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $7d.$ per rotolo; fish, fruit and vegetables are about one-fourth cheaper than formerly, and charcoal is much about the same as before.

The choice of the Deputies selected as the bearers of the Parliamentary Decree to the Duke of Genoa, does credit to the judgment of Ministers. Of the Peers the Duke of Serra di Falco is well versed in ceremonials; the Prince of Torremuzza is an able and accomplished Secretary; the Prince of San Giuseppe is a favourite with the National Guard; and the Baron Riso is celebrated for his public munificence and private hospitality. Of the Commoners Ferrara and Perez are well-known journalists and political martyrs, and Natoli and Camazza are good speakers at the bar and in the Senate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

No. 228.

The Hon. R. Abercromby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 2.)

My Lord,

Turin, July 24, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a letter I have received from Marquis Pareto, inclosing copy of the protest presented by the Neapolitan Chargé d'Affaires at Turin to the Government of His Sardinian Majesty against the election of His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa to the Throne of Sicily.

The above-mentioned letter from the Marquis Pareto requests also that I would inform him of the determination which I might think it right to take in consequence of this event.

I have now the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship the reply which I have addressed to the Marquis Pareto, by which I decline to offer any opinion or advice with regard to a question which the Sardinian Government is alone competent and called upon to decide.

I have deemed it also expedient to avail myself of the opportunity thus afforded to me by the letter of the Marquis Pareto, to recall to his mind the exact terms of the communication which in obedience to your Lordship's instructions as conveyed to me by your despatch of the 8th of May last, I had made to the Sardinian Minister for Foreign Affairs at our last interview.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. ABERCROMBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 228.

The Marquis Pareto to the Hon. R. Abercromby.

Monsieur,

Turin, le 20 Juillet, 1848, au soir.

JE viens de recevoir du Représentant de Naples près cette Cour une protestation contre l'élection faite par le Parlement Sicilien de Son Altesse Royale Monseigneur le Duc de Gênes au Trône de la Sicile.

Je m'empresse de vous transmettre ci-jointe une copie de cette protestation et j'attendrai de connaître les déterminations que vous jugerez devoir prendre sur cet important objet.

Agrééz, &c.

(Signé) L. N. PARETO.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Turin, July 23, 1848, in the evening.

I HAVE just received from the Representative of Naples at this Court, a protest against the election by the Sicilian Parliament of His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa to the throne of Sicily.

I hasten to transmit to you herewith a copy of this protest, and I shall wait to learn the determination which you shall think fit to take on this important matter.

Receive, &c.

(Signed) L. N. PARETO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 228.

*Count Ludolf to the Marquis Pareto.**Torino, 20 Luglio, 1848.*

IL Sottoscritto, Incaricato d'Affari di Sua Maestà il Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie, ha ricevuto dal suo Governo l'ordine di fare la seguente comunicazione a sua Eccellenza Il Signor Marchese Pareto, Ministro e Segretario di Stato degli Affari Esteri di Sua Maestà Sarda.

Con decreto del 10 andante il sedicente Governo Provvisorio di Sicilia ha chiamato al Trono dell' isola Sua Altezza Reale il Duca di Genova, figlio secondogenito di Sua Maestà il Rè di Sardegna.

L'alta opinione che il Governo di Sua Maestà Siciliana ha delle qualità individuali di Sua Maestà Sarda, gli è garante della giustizia e della saviezza che presideranno ai consigli della Maestà Sua in così grave circostanza, e crede non ingannarsi tenendo per fermo che lungi dall' essere stata informata o di avere approvato i precedenti che hanno prodotto un tale risultato, la Maestà Sua si opporrà energicamente e con tutti i mezzi in suo potere al loro compimento.

Pur non dimeno ed a scanso di equivoci, il Governo di Napoli si crede in diritto d'interpellare direttamente quello di Sardegna su d'un oggetto di tale importanza, onde avere al più presto possibile una esatta e categorica dichiarazione intorno alle sue intenzioni ed alla risoluzione che sarà per adottare, sicuro che sarà essa conforme al rispetto ed alla fede che i Sovrani e le nazioni incivilite debbono serbare ai solenni Trattati sanzionati non solo dal tempo ma benanche dal comune consenso di tutti i Sovrani d'Europa, ed al desiderio di mantener salde le relazioni d'amicizia e di buona armonia felicemente esistenti da lunghi anni tra i due Stati, indispensabili or più che mai all' indipendenza ed al riposo della Penisola Italiana.

Se però contro ogni aspettativa Sua Maestà Sarda accettasse per sua Altezza Reale il Duca di Genova l'inconsiderata offerta de' Siciliani, o pure contribuisse indirettamente a recarlo ad effetto, Sua Maestà Siciliana si troverà nella dura necessità d'interrompere le relazioni tra i due Governi, e confidando nel buon diritto e nella giustizia della sua causa, dopo aver protestato al cospetto del mondo intero, si avvalerà di tutti i mezzi di cui può disporre, per provvedere

all' integrità ed al decoro della monarchia delle Due Sicilie. E con tanto maggior animo vi si adopererà in quanto che tale causa deve necessariamente interessare tutti i Governi privilegiati e tutti i popoli i quali sentono la loro dignità, e che rinchiude in se i destini del genere umano.

Ama perciò il Governo di Sua Maestà credere che questa circostanza contribuirà invece, mercè franche e leali spiegazioni, a consolidare i legami che uniscono i due Stati.

Il Sottoscritto quindi prega sua Eccellenza il Marchese Pareto di compiacersi portare la presente nota alla cognizione del suo Sovrano, e di darvi al più presto un preciso riscontro, e profitta, &c.

(Firmato) LUDOLF.

(Translation.)

Turin, July 20, 1848.

THE Undersigned, His Sicilian Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, has been ordered by his Government to make the following communication to his Excellency the Marquis Pareto, His Sardinian Majesty's Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

By Decree of the 10th instant the self-called Provisional Government of Sicily has called to the Throne of the island His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa, second son of His Sardinian Majesty.

The high opinion which the Government of His Sicilian Majesty have of the individual qualities of His Sardinian Majesty is to them a guarantee of the justice and wisdom which will preside over the counsels of His Majesty in such serious circumstances, and they believe that they are not mistaken in taking it for granted that far from having been informed or of having approved of the steps which have produced this result, His Majesty will oppose their accomplishment with energy and by all the means in his power.

Nevertheless and to avoid mistakes, the Government of Naples think that they are entitled to put a direct question to that of Sardinia with reference to an object of such importance, in order that they may have as soon as possible a precise and categorical declaration as to their intentions and to the resolution which they intend to adopt; the Government of His Sicilian Majesty being certain that this resolution will be in conformity with the respect and faith with which Sovereigns and civilized nations ought to observe solemn Treaties, sanctioned by time and by the common consent of all the Sovereigns of Europe, and with the desire of maintaining the good relations of friendship and of harmony which have so happily existed during so many years between the two States, and which are now more than ever indispensable for the independence and peace of the Italian Peninsula.

If however, contrary to all expectations, His Sardinian Majesty accepts for His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa the inconsiderate offer of the Sicilians, or indirectly assists in carrying it into execution, His Sicilian Majesty will regret to find himself in the necessity of interrupting the relations between the two Governments; and trusting in his right and in the justice of his cause, after a protest in the face of the whole world, he will use all the means in his power to provide for the integrity and honour of the monarchy of the Two Sicilies. And he will do so with the greater spirit because his cause must necessarily be that of all wronged Governments and of all the nations that feel their own dignity, and because it carries with it the destinies of mankind.

Therefore the Government of His Sicilian Majesty like to believe that this circumstance will on the contrary, by frank and loyal explanations on their part, contribute to draw closer the bonds which unite the two States.

The Undersigned begs that the Marquis Pareto will have the goodness to communicate the present note to his Sovereign, and to give him as soon as possible a precise answer, and he avails, &c.

(Signed) LUDOLF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 228.

The Hon. R. Abercromby to the Marquis Pareto.

M. le Marquis,

Turin, le 22 Juillet, 1848.

JE viens de recevoir la lettre par laquelle votre Excellence m'envoie copie de la protestation de la Cour de Naples contre l'élection de Monseigneur le Duc de Gènes au Trône de la Sicile, et par laquelle elle désire savoir les déterminations que je jugerai devoir prendre sur cet important objet.

Dans une question de la nature de celle-ci, et dont la solution doit être entièrement selon la convenance et les intérêts seuls mais bien considérés du Gouvernement Sarde, il serait peu convenable de ma part d'offrir une opinion quelconque, car ce serait là m'attribuer une prétention que je n'ai pas et que je ne suis nullement appelé à exercer.

Vous me permettez donc, M. le Marquis, de m'abstenir de répondre plus en détail à la demande que renferme votre lettre, mais je profite de l'occasion pour vous renoueler ici la teneur de la communication que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous faire Dimanche passé.

Je vous disais dans cette entrevue, "que c'était à Monseigneur le Duc de Gènes de décider s'il accepterait ou non l'offre de la Couronne, mais que dans le cas où Son Altesse Royale optât en faveur de l'acceptation, il lui serait peut-être agréable de savoir, qu'en temps et à propos, lorsque Son Altesse Royale serait en possession du Trône, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique le reconnaîtrait comme Souverain de l'île."

Telles étaient, M. le Marquis, les expressions dont je me suis servi dans notre dernier entretien; vous y verrez, je n'en doute pas, la confirmation de ce que je viens d'avoir l'honneur de vous écrire ci-dessus, et qui doit guider ma conduite dans une affaire aussi grave qu'importante.

Je m'empresseai pourtant de transmettre à mon Gouvernement copie de la protestation de la Cour de Naples, ainsi que de la lettre de votre Excellence et ma présente réponse.

(Signé)

RA. ABERCROMBY.

(Translation.)

M. le Marquis,

Turin, July 22, 1848.

I HAVE just received the letter by which your Excellency sends me a copy of the protest of the Court of Naples against the election of the Duke of Genoa to the Throne of Sicily, and by which you desire to learn the determination which I shall think fit to take on this important matter.

In a question of this nature, and the solution of which must depend entirely upon the convenience and interest alone, but well considered, of the Sardinian Government, it would be little becoming on my part to offer any opinion whatever, for to do so would be to attribute to myself a pretension which I have not, and which I am in no degree called upon to exercise.

You will allow me then, M. le Marquis, to abstain from replying in more detail to the demand contained in your letter, but I take advantage of the occasion to repeat to you the purport of the communication which I had the honour to make to you last Sunday.

I told you in that interview, "that it was for the Duke of Genoa to decide whether he would accept or not the offer of the Crown, but that in case His Royal Highness should elect in favour of acceptance, it might perhaps be agreeable to him to know, that at a suitable time, when his Royal Highness should be in possession of the Throne, Her Britannic Majesty's Government would recognize him as Sovereign of the island."

Such were, M. le Marquis, the expressions which I made use of in our last conversation; you will see therein, I doubt not, the confirmation of that which I have now the honour to write to you above, and which must regulate my conduct in a matter as serious as it is important.

I will however hasten to transmit to my Government a copy of the protest of the Court of Naples, as well as of your Excellency's letter and my present reply.

(Signed)

R. ABERCROMBY.

No. 229.

The Hon. R. Abercromby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 3.)

My Lord,

Turin, July 25, 1848.

THE French steam-frigate "Descartes," Captain Bouet, of 16 guns and 300 men complement, anchored on the 23rd instant in Genoa harbour direct from Palermo, having on board the Sicilian deputation commissioned to carry to His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa the decree of the Sicilian Parliament conferring upon him the Crown of Sicily.

The Deputation upon landing proceeded at once to the head-quarters of His Sardinian Majesty.

It is fortunate that the Sicilian Deputation obtained a passage to Genoa on board a man-of-war; for two men-of-war steamers, confidently believed to be Neapolitan, though wearing French colours, have for some days and nights been cruising between Leghorn and Genoa, overhauling and examining the packet steamers plying between those two ports, and making particular inquiries as to the passengers that were on board.

There is good reason to suspect that the object of these visits was to search for the members of the Sicilian Deputation; and it is possible, had they trusted themselves to the packet steamers and had been found on board one of them, that they might have been forcibly carried off prisoners to Naples.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RA. ABERCROMBY.

No. 230.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 5, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing copies of a correspondence which had passed between you and the Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs, in consequence of the measures taken by the Neapolitan Government to exact from British subjects the payment of a forced loan, I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the steps taken by you on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 231.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 5, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, reporting the steps taken by you with respect to the prisoners captured on board the Sicilian vessels by the Neapolitan steam vessel of war "Stromboli," I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 232.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 5, 1848.

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve of the steps taken for facilitating the passage of M. Alliata to Genoa, as reported in your despatch of the 13th ult.mo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 233.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 3, 1848.

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve of the instructions which you addressed to Mr. Consul Goodwin relative to an expedition from Sicily to Calahria, an extract of which is inclosed in your despatch of the 11th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 234.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 3, 1848.

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve of the language held by you on the affairs of Sicily as reported in your despatch of the 5th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 235.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 5, 1848.

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve of the steps taken by you with reference to the election of a Prince to fill the Throne of Sicily, as reported in your despatch of the 11th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 236.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 5, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches inclosing copies of the correspondence which you had had with Prince Cariati upon the subject of the British flag having been hoisted on board the Neapolitan war-steamer "Stromboli" for the purpose of deceiving and capturing two Sicilian vessels, I have to desire that you will say to Prince Cariati that you have transmitted the whole of that correspondence to Her Majesty's Government, and that Her Majesty's Government are by no means satisfied with the explanations therein given on the part of the Government of Naples.

With regard to the false assumption of the British flag by the Captain of the "Stromboli" for the purpose of deceiving the Sicilians and of inducing them to slacken their course instead of running with a greater press of sail for the harbour of Corfu, that deception was unworthy in itself, and under all the circumstances of persons, time, and place, disrespectful to the British Government; and Her Majesty's Government trusts and expects that the Neapolitan Government will give strict orders to its naval officers not in future to take such a liberty with the flag of England.

As to the place where the capture was made Her Majesty's Government are by no means satisfied that the two vessels were not detained within the distance of three miles from the east of Corfu.

By the Neapolitan captain's own account he was about twenty miles from that coast when he first descried the first ship, she being then at a considerable distance from him and making for Corfu; he chased her, as he says, and after half an hour he got only near enough to distinguish people on board, he then disguised himself by hoisting the British flag and afterwards, when he had got within cannon-shot of the vessel, he hoisted his own colours and fired a blank shot, but the vessel having delayed to bring to, he then fired a shotted gun, which enforced obedience.

Now it is plain that if he was only twenty miles from the coast of Corfu when first he descried the captured vessel, it is not only possible but probable that before all the subsequent circumstances took place which intervened before he captured his prize, she might have got within the three miles' distance from the shore of the island.

It is essential that your Lordship should have afforded to you the means of ascertaining this fact, and if the vessels were captured within the Ionian waters the prisoners ought to be claimed and to be delivered up to British authorities.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 237.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord,

Admiralty, August 5, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, dated the 15th July, relative to the state of affairs in Sicily.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 237.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, July 15, 1848.

MY letter of the 11th instant which I had just time to put on board the "Porcupine" off Cape St. Vito on her return to Naples, as it was then blowing fresh, will have informed the Lords of the Admiralty of my approach to Palermo Bay, where the squadron anchored at 9 p.m. of that day, finding in the roads Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Bulldog" and the French ships "Inflexible" of 90 guns, and "Jupiter" of 80 guns.

The accompanying copy of Commander Key's report of the proceedings at this place will inform their Lordships that the Duke of Genoa had been on that morning elected as the Sovereign of Sicily, and that the "Bulldog" had participated in the salutes which were fired by the fortresses on the occasion, which example was followed two hours afterwards by the French ships of war.

I have expressed my approbation of the course pursued by Commander Key under the circumstances in which he was placed, which I trust will also meet the concurrence of their Lordships. I deemed it expedient also at 8 o'clock on the following morning (12th) to salute the Sicilian flag with twenty-one guns from the "Hibernia," which was immediately returned with an equal number of guns.

I returned also a salute of thirteen guns which was offered to my flag from a small Sicilian Government vessel lying in the Mole.

M. Stabile, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Prince Scordia, another member of the Government, paid me an early visit to express their satisfaction at the arrival of the squadron.

In the course of the morning a "Te Deum" was performed at the cathedral in celebration of the creation of the Sovereign.

On the following day (13th) Don Ruggiero Settimo, the President of the Government of the Kingdom of Sicily, who has also been declared Lieutenant-General and Senator for life, favoured me with a visit on board the "Hibernia" where he was received under a salute of twelve guns.

On leaving the "Hibernia" his Excellency visited the senior officer of the French ships, who wears a distinguishing broad pendant, and was there in like manner saluted with twelve guns.

I inclose a decree of the General Parliament, and understand that the election of the Sovereign was unanimous and received with general satisfaction.

Everything is now quiet at Palermo and the population seems perfectly contented.

They are proceeding rapidly in the organisation of their National Guard, but have very few other troops.

No application was made by the Sicilian Government for the "Bulldog" to proceed to Genoa, as noticed in Captain Pelham's letter to Mr. Ward of the 10th instant, as the "Porcupine" conveyed to Naples the official communication to the Duke of Genoa of His Royal Highness's election as King of Sicily, and she will from thence probably repair to Genoa on the requisition of Lord Napier to convey the bearer of the despatch to His Majesty elect.

A deputation from the Sicilian Government is also preparing to proceed to His Majesty by the Sicilian steamer "Palermo," which will probably depart for Genoa on the 17th instant.

I have not received any intimation from Captain Robb of the proceedings at Messina, but I am informed on good authority that the "Gladiator" joined in saluting the Sicilian flag on the announcement of their election of the King, which was I believe also done by the French.

The salute from the Sicilian fortresses was returned by a discharge of shells from the citadel held by the Neapolitans, but no further bombardment ensued.

The French steamer "Panama" is just come in from Naples, which she left on the 13th instant. The "Porcupine" had then arrived, but as the "Thetis" was under weigh in the vicinity I have received no letters by her.

I believe Admiral Baudin is likely to arrive here soon with the French squadron. It is understood that Rear-Admiral Tréhouart is to join them at Palermo with the "Hercule" and "Jemappes" from Toulon, when it is expected that Admiral Baudin will from impaired health return to Naples on leave for the benefit of the Baths of Ischia. The utmost cordiality exists between the officers of Her Majesty's squadron and those of the French ships of war here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 237.

Captain Key to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

Sir,

"Bulldog," Palermo, July 11, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I this morning received an official communication from the Sicilian Government through Her Majesty's Consul, to the effect that the Duke of Genoa had been unanimously chosen by the Parliament to fill the Throne of Sicily.

Being aware of the expressed intention of Her Majesty's Government to recognise this kingdom when any member of a Reigning Italian House should be offered the Crown, and also that the King of Sardinia had expressed his readiness to accept it for his son if selected, I deemed it my duty to publish this recognition without delay by saluting the Sicilian flag with 21 guns at 8 A.M., which was returned by the Castle. The French 90-gun ship "Inflexible" saluted the Sicilian flag this morning at 10:30 A.M.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. COOPER KEY.

No. 238.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, August 7, 1848.

IN reply to your letter of the 29th July and its inclosures, requesting the opinion of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the subject of the Neapolitan steam-vessel of war "Stromboli" having used the British flag for the purpose of deceiving and capturing certain Sicilians between the Island of Corfu and the coast of Calabria; I am commanded by their Lordships to state for the information of Viscount Palmerston, that the practice of using the flags of other nations being constantly adopted by our cruisers in time of war, my Lords do not consider that there can be any well-grounded cause of complaint in the present instance, unless the British colours were still flying when hostilities commenced.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

No. 239.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord,

Admiralty, August 9, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send your Lordship herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker dated 30th July and of its inclosures, reporting his arrival at Naples with Her Majesty's squadron to obtain redress for injury offered to British subjects and property and for other causes of complaint.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 239.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," at Naples, July 30, 1848.

I REQUEST you will inform the Lords of the Admiralty of the arrival of Her Majesty's squadron, consisting of the ships named in the margin*, in Naples Bay, having sailed from Palermo on the 23rd instant, leaving the "Odin" at that anchorage.

The inclosed copies of letters which I addressed to Lord Napier will best explain my object in coming hither, and his reply will inform their Lordships that our principal cause of complaint in the attempt of the Neapolitan Government to impose a forced loan on British subjects was abandoned on the 23rd instant. The Government also promises to discontinue the practice of using the British flag for deceptive purposes, on the understanding however that the same restriction will extend equally to the Sicilians; a reasonable condition, which has been already acted on with regard to the latter.

The principal question now at issue is whether the two vessels with the Sicilians on board were captured so close to Corfu as to involve a violation of Her Majesty's territory.

The Neapolitan Government have not yet forwarded this information, and they have not only denied Lord Napier access to the Sicilian prisoners in the presence of Neapolitan officers with a view to ascertain the fact from both sides, but they have refused his Lordship permission to communicate with a British subject (a Maltese) who was taken with the prisoners and is now kept under arrest for trial without any notification of his case to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.

I presume in this latter case we may demand acquiescence with our request as a measure for the due protection of a British subject as far as he may be justly entitled to it.

* *Hibernia, Howe, Queen, Rodney, Superb, Vanguard, and Vengeance; steam-sloops, Hecate and Bulldog.*

The remaining case at issue is one of minor import, referring to a musket shot having been wantonly (as we think) fired into a British merchant brig, the "Edward Barnett," at Messina on the 12th of June last from the fort of San Salvador occupied by the Neapolitans.

The master and crew duly deposed to the fact, which was corroborated by Captain Robb's statement, and reclamation made by him on General Pronio, the commander of the Neapolitan forces; he however as positively denies that any shot was so fired and declines to admit the possibility of its having been done without his knowledge. The Neapolitan statements will be sent for Captain Robb's observations, and the whole of the particulars shall be forwarded for their Lordships' information.

I understand from Lord Napier that the Neapolitan Government's communications to him have lately been made in an unpleasant if not a rude tone, and until we have satisfactory explanations on the points that are still open I have declined offering a national salute to the Neapolitan flag, though I have returned one which was made to my flag as soon as we anchored, and the visits of courtesy which have been offered with more than usual attention are all returned.

I hope that in these proceedings I have accorded with their Lordships' views and have not exceeded what was requisite for maintaining the dignity of our flag.

It is my intention as soon as the points under discussion are adjusted to offer the usual salute and move part of the squadron to Castellamare.

There are no less than nineteen Neapolitan Government steamers now lying in this bay, preparatory it is imagined to an expedition against Sicily; but I believe they are not provided with the implements of war which they are intended to embark, and that they are partly detained for want of funds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 239.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"*Hibernia*," off Capri, July 29, 1848.

I DO myself the honour of apprizing your Lordship of my approach to Naples Bay with Her Majesty's ships named in the margin*.

I have hastened hither from Palermo for the protection of Her Majesty's subjects and their property, having been informed that the Neapolitan Government were imposing a forced loan on them contrary to the terms of the Treaty with Great Britain, and that certain articles had already been seized.

I also consider some apology necessary with regard to the improper use of the British flag for a deceptive purpose by the Neapolitan steamer "*Stromboli*," and a promise in writing that directions will be issued to prevent a repetition of it for the reasons given in my letter to your Lordship of the 19th instant.

It likewise remains to be shown at what distance from Corfu the vessels with the Sicilian troops on board were actually captured, and that Her Britannic Majesty's territory was not violated by that act.

To ascertain this fact it appears necessary that communication should be had with some of the prisoners, and yet access to them in the presence of Neapolitan officers has not only been denied to your Lordship with regard to the Sicilian captives, but I believe you have been refused liberty to see a British subject who was found among the prisoners, and who has been several days arrested without any communication having been made to your Lordship. I have already transmitted to you the statement of Captain Robb with reference to the musket-shot fired into the English brig "*Edward Barnett*" at Messina from the fortress of St. Salvatore, then held by the Neapolitan troops.

It was apparent to Captain Robb, from the direction in which the musket-ball struck the English brig, that it could not have come from any other position.

It has not been charged on the General commanding the Neapolitan forces or the officers under his orders that this musket-shot was fired, either

* *Hibernia* (flag-ship), *Howe*, *Queen*, *Rodory*, *Superb Vanguard*, *Vengeance*, and *Thetis*; steam-sloops, *Hecate* and *Bulldog*.

with their knowledge or in accordance with their wishes, but the General has not had the courtesy to express regret at the occurrence. He takes upon himself to deny the fact of which the evidence is against him, and is indisposed even to admit the possibility that the shot may have been inadvertently, carelessly, or wantonly fired by any individual under his command.

These occurrences, my Lord, indicate a disposition on the part of the Neapolitan Government to treat lightly the respect due to the British flag and the position of British subjects in the Neapolitan dominions, which cannot be passively submitted to.

It places me, my Lord, most unwillingly in the unpleasant position of appearing before Naples with Her Majesty's squadron without feeling myself at liberty to offer a salute to the Neapolitan flag until the proceedings I complain of are abandoned, or satisfactorily explained.

I submit (always with becoming deference) that the Neapolitan Government have outraged the existing Treaty by attempting to levy a forced loan on our countrymen.

I hope that any intention of renewing this measure has been formally disavowed.

When suitable assurances are officially given to me on this and the other points adverted to I shall be quite ready and willing to exchange salutes and detach a portion of Her Majesty's ships to another anchorage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 239.

Lord Napier to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

Sir,

Naples, July 29, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of this day's date, stating the reasons for which your Excellency has proceeded to Naples with Her Majesty's squadron under your command, and your intention to anchor with the whole of your force in front of the city.

The numerous offences of which your Excellency has justly complained are far from being explained in a satisfactory manner.

The levy of a forced loan on Her Majesty's subjects has been abandoned, and a notification of this resolution has been conveyed in the usual form to Her Majesty's Legation. The theoretical question of the right to exact such imposition from British subjects may be allowed I think to be the subject of further discussion between Her Majesty's Government and that of Naples.

A conditional promise has been offered by Prince Cariati that Her Majesty's ensign shall not in future be hoisted by Neapolitan vessels of war for purpose of deception.

I have been refused all access not only to the Sicilian prisoners but even to one of Her Majesty's subjects captured along with them for very insufficient reasons, a circumstance which would alone in my opinion justify a marked demonstration of your Excellency's sense of the injustice thus committed by the Government of Naples.

The documents forwarded by the Neapolitan Government in respect to a shot fired into the English brig "Edward Burnett" by Fort Salvatore at Messina are communicated under a separate cover, and your Excellency will learn that the Government of Naples persevere in denying the apology and redress so reasonably requested.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 239.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Hibernia," Malta, July 30, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of yesterday, inclosing the depositions communicated by the Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs, to prove that no shot was or could be fired into the English brig "Edward Barnett" from Fort San Salvator at Messina, as deposed by the master and crew of that vessel.

I have perused these documents which I shall transmit for the information of Captain Robb of the "Gladiator" and any further observation he may have to offer.

It is stated by the Adjutant Major Rodriguez and other Neapolitan officers, that the sentry was always removed between daylight and sunset from the sea front of the Salvatore Fort, on which I shall now only remark that it is not asserted that the shot was fired by a sentry, and as I am given to understand that the firing was at that period frequent and occurring at uncertain hours between the opponent parties, it seems probable that some other unauthorized person may have fired the shot in question, which the master of the "Edward Barnett" states to have been done at half-past 6 o'clock. Neither the master and crew of the "Edward Barnett" or Captain Robb could have had any rational motive for making an unjust accusation on this subject. There was no assignable object to be gained by it, and I can but regret the prolongation of a discussion which a few courteous words might have long since ended without compromising the dignity of the Neapolitan General or his Government.

I shall have the honour of transmitting Captain Robb's additional remarks on this question to your Lordship whenever I receive them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 240.

Lord Eddisbury to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 12, 1848.

WITH reference to your letter of the 9th instant inclosing the copy of a despatch from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker reporting his arrival at Naples with Her Majesty's squadron, and his correspondence with Lord Napier upon the subject of certain causes of complaint against the Government of Naples which have recently arisen, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to observe that Sir W. Parker appears to have acted properly and with judgment on this occasion, and that he is quite borne out in insisting that Lord Napier should have access to the British subjects taken with the other prisoners who were captured on board the Sicilian vessels by the Neapolitan steam-vessel of war "Stromboli," and that the question should be cleared up as to where the Sicilians were captured.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDDISBURY.

No. 241.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 15, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, I herewith transmit to your Lordship for your information a copy of a letter* which has been received from the Admiralty upon the subject of the English flag having been used by the Neapolitan war-steamer "Stromboli."

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 242.

The Marquis of Normanby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 15.)

(Extract.)

Paris, August 14, 1848.

— GENERAL CAVAIGNAC and M. Bastide mentioned to me to-day that they had not as yet given any answer to M. Ludolf, the Neapolitan Envoy, on the question of the line France would take with reference to Sicily. They wished in this as in every other part of the Italian Question, to be able to follow the same course as that of Her Majesty's Government. I could not give them any direct information as to the line which had been taken with the Neapolitan Minister in London, but this signified the less at the moment, because the Sicilian Delegates had been with M. Bastide and had soured him as to what would be the feeling of the French Government, should the Duke of Genoa refuse the Crown of Sicily, as to its being offered to a son of Ferdinand. This I had been led to believe from some of Lord Napier's despatches would be a peaceful solution of the question, and if the Sicilians should now be inclined to agree to it, I am happy to say that it would be a result to the full as agreeable to the French Government as the nomination of the Duke of Genoa. The Sicilian Delegates had added that they hoped in that case their separate Constitution and independent Government might receive the joint guarantee of England and of France.

I said that in our former discussions we had all, I thought, seen the inconvenience of a permanent guarantee.

No. 243.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 16.)

(Extract.)

Naples, July 19, 1848.

I CALLED on his Excellency Prince Cariati this morning, and communicated to him your Lordship's instruction of the 3rd ultimo, stating explicitly that Her Majesty's Government recognized no general guarantee in the Treaty of Vienna binding the contracting Powers to uphold all its provisions by force of arms, a pretension put forward on a former occasion by Marquis Dragonetti; and also that Her Majesty's Government, although they would prefer to see a Prince of the House of Naples seated on the Throne of Sicily, would recognize any other Italian Prince after he had taken possession of the Sicilian Crown.

Prince Cariati had been long ago in possession of the substance of this communication.

On his return to office after the 15th of May I repeated to him your Lordship's declaration imparted on the day before the insurrection to his predecessor, that Her Majesty's Government are not liable, under Article CIV of the Treaty of Vienna, to compel the restoration of the Royal Power in Sicily, for that Article expressed merely a recognition and not a guarantee; and on the 13th or 14th of June, on the receipt of Mr. Goodwin's despatch reporting the communication to M. Stabile of your Lordship's instruction to Mr. Abercromby, I waited on the

* See No. 238.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and informed him plainly of the sense of what had passed.

I told his Excellency that Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo had received instructions to acquaint the Government of Sicily that although Great Britain would prefer a son of His Neapolitan Majesty, they would recognize any other Italian Prince chosen by the Parliament "at the proper time, and when he was in possession of the Sicilian Throne," and I was most careful to reiterate to Prince Cariati, both in English and French, the exact terms of your Lordship's instruction above mentioned. I preferred to take this course though without instructions to do so: 1st, in order that the Neapolitan Government might have ample warning and abundant time to make overtures to the Sicilians; and 2dly, because an incorrect report had been printed and circulated at Palermo to the effect that Her Majesty's Government had recognized the existing Provisional Government of Sicily, and I thought it important to correct that misapprehension. I also informed the Minister of Russia distinctly of the state of the case, and another of my colleagues, in the impression that Count Chreptowitch might in that emergency advise the Court of Naples, which he is better enabled to do than any other foreign Representative at this capital.

From the 14th of June to the 4th of July I had several occasions to speak with Prince Cariati on other matters, and I can safely say that I never once saw his Excellency without reminding him of the position of his Government with regard to Sicily, and of the declarations made at Palermo by the Governments of Great Britain and France; but never once did Prince Cariati nor any other Minister make the slightest offer at an accommodation with Sicily, nor express a desire to negotiate for the election of one of the King's sons.

When on the 4th instant I was entertained by His Majesty the King on this subject, His Majesty never once expressed a wish to see his son elected in Sicily; he remained, it is true, in generalities, but his expectations clearly pointed to the re-establishment of his own power, and he talked of a reaction in his own favour; a view which, on my opinion being consulted, I could not honestly substantiate.

In fact from the time the Earl of Minto left Naples, the Neapolitan Government have never attempted to arrange the affairs of Sicily by negotiation, as far as I can learn; they have either been absorbed by the engrossing cares of their own administration, or have nourished a design to conquer that country when their hands became free at home.

I am bound to add however that since the 15th of May and especially after the invasion of Calabria by the Sicilians, all hopes of terminating the contest by an amicable compromise with the Government and Parliament of Sicily were at an end. The Sicilians shared the error which was general throughout Italy, that in the convulsion at Naples the King was the aggressor and the slaughterer of his people, and that all the provinces would rise and destroy his Government.

In vain they were warned of the contrary; they entered blindly on a course by which they were committed to an uncompromising rejection of any offers on the part of the Neapolitan Government, and by which the latter were not without reason in the highest degree exasperated and actually debarred from making advances to the Sicilians with a due regard to the honour of their Sovereign, even had they desired to do so.

Since the 15th of May and the invasion of Calabria, the Parliament of Sicily have had but one alternative, either to declare a Republic and invoke the aid of France alone, or to elect an Italian Prince and appeal to the sympathy and mediation of Great Britain and France, which they are now doing.

If Her Majesty's Government through this Legation have indirectly contributed anything to hasten the latter result, I believe it has been for the good of Sicily and in the interests of the whole Italian Peninsula, though I cannot but deplore the time wasted and the opportunities cast away during the mission of the Earl of Minto, by the Neapolitan Government, and their neglect of his Lordship's last proposal to procure the election of a son of the King to the Throne of Sicily.

No. 244.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 23, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which I addressed on the 18th instant to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, inclosing the report of Captain Salazar of the "Stromboli," and requesting his Excellency's opinion of the circumstances under which the capture of the Sicilians was effected by that vessel.

I last night received the accompanying reply, which would scarcely warrant me in demanding either the reprimand of Captain Salazar or the liberation of the prisoners, but which justifies me in requiring a declaration from the Neapolitan Government that they will give orders to discontinue the practice of using Her Majesty's ensign for the purpose of deception during the present hostilities.

By another letter from Sir William Parker annexed herewith, I am informed that the Sicilian deputation has been carried to Genoa in a French steam-vessel of war, a precaution not at all superfluous, for Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Porcupine" in returning from that port fell in with two steam-vessels showing French colours, but believed to be Neapolitans, cruising off Genoa, to intercept the Sicilian Embassy. These vessels approached the "Porcupine" in so menacing a manner that she was obliged to clear for action in expectation of some act of hostility, but on a near examination they appeared convinced of her nationality and withdrew.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 244.

Lord Napier to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

Sir,

Naples, July 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that on the 15th instant reports reached me that in the late capture off Corfu of two small vessels in which the Sicilians engaged in the invasion of Calabria had embarked, the British flag was used by the officer in command of the Neapolitan steam vessel of war "Stromboli" as the instrument of an artifice and deception. I consequently addressed the accompanying note to the Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs requesting an official account of the manner in which the transaction passed, and applying for liberty to confer with two gentlemen among the number of the Sicilian prisoners for the purpose of obtaining additional testimony from the opposite party. Prince Cariatì forwarded me in reply the annexed report from Captain Salazar of the "Stromboli," but refused the desired freedom of communication with the prisoners on the ground stated and objected to in my second note herewith inclosed. The report of the Neapolitan officer is in the main corroborated by the account given me by a lady, the wife of a Neapolitan prisoner, who was with her husband on board the Sicilian vessels at the time, but as that lady was not on deck, and spoke from hearsay, I cannot accept her evidence as conclusive.

Mr. Beek has furnished me with a note of his conversation with the English engineer of the "Stromboli," which is also not sufficiently explicit on the point whether the British colours were actually removed previous to the perpetration of any act of hostility by that vessel, which was immediately dispatched a second time to the Calabrian coast, depriving me thus of a valuable source of information.

As I cannot profess to be a competent judge of the rights of belligerents in respect to neutral flags, nor to be familiar with the ceremony and usage which prevail at sea in respect to their employment, I venture to submit to your Excellency whether the use of the British ensign under the circumstances stated by the Neapolitan officer was consistent with custom and with the respect

due to the flag of a friendly nation; and your Excellency would also oblige me by stating whether you consider the bare assertion of the Neapolitan commander to be satisfactory proof to you, that there was not a more unjustifiable use made of it, and that no act of hostility was committed before it was hauled down.

It is also reported that the capture of the second or smaller Sicilian vessel occurred so close to the shore as to fall within the Ionian waters.

I am, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 244.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Hibernia," Palermo, July 19, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive this day your letter of the 18th instant by the French steamer "Solon," informing me of the communications which had passed between your Lordship and the Prince Cariati, in consequence of the British colours having been surreptitiously used by the Neapolitan steam-vessel "Stromboli" off Corfu, for the purpose of entrapping two small vessels in which a body of the Sicilian forces returning from the invasion of Calabria were embarked.

When I addressed your Lordship at the request of the Sicilian Government on the 17th instant to entreat your good offices in behalf of the unfortunate prisoners I was not aware until the moment of closing my letter that they were intercepted near Corfu, nor of any particulars except that the British colours had been employed as an artifice to effect their capture. It is customary in war for belligerents to hoist the colours of their adversaries to decoy or mislead them, but they are not warranted in using the flag of a neutral Power, although such a practice has been sometimes resorted to; but it becomes additionally obnoxious when the naval forces of the Power whose flag is usurped are stationed in localities traversed by the belligerents.

It is due to Great Britain as a friendly Power, that every doubt should be frankly and satisfactorily removed of her flag having been further violated by any hostile act on the part of the "Stromboli" while it was so improperly displayed, and it is equally essential that we should have unequivocal proof that the capture of the Sicilian forces was not made within the Island of Corfu or in such close proximity to that island or any other part of our Sovereign's territory as may constitute an infraction of its inviolability; for I should feel it my duty under such circumstances to demand through the medium of your Lordship the liberation of any vessels, individuals, or property so seized, and should hold Her Majesty's squadron prepared to act in support of such demand, until the determination of the British Government was intimated.

I therefore learn with regret that the Prince Cariati on the part of the Neapolitan Government has refused your Lordship's reasonable request to be permitted in the presence of one or more Neapolitan officers to communicate with the Sicilian prisoners to receive their statement of the facts attending their seizure.

It has been further intimated to me that serious apprehensions are entertained for the safety of one or two of the prisoners whose lives it is said are considered to be forfeited by the Neapolitan laws.

I will not believe, my Lord, that the Neapolitan Government can contemplate any treatment of the Sicilian captives but as prisoners of war. I persuade myself that no violence will be attempted towards a single individual of them; and I feel myself justified in offering these remarks from the admitted use of the British ensign in connexion with the subject. I feel confident also that Her Majesty's Government would view with deep regret any act of severity associated with the misuse of the English colours.

I by no means wish to impugn the veracity or honour of the officer commanding the "Stromboli," whose statement appears ingenious, but as it is not denied that the British colours were hoisted to deceive the Sicilians, we may justly claim the right of having the other parts of Lieutenant Salazar's statement

corroborated by the testimony of some of the respectable individuals who are sufferers by the stratagem he employed. We seek not distortion of facts.

Whatever may be the result of your Lordship's communications I must beg of you to call on the Neapolitan Government to issue positive orders against Her Majesty's colours being again hoisted in any of the Neapolitan ships for the purpose of deception.

I would only further beg of your Lordship to remind the Prince Cariati that we are still without a satisfactory atonement for the musket-hall which was wantonly fired into the English brig "Edward Barnett" from Fort Salvatore at Messina, that fortress being then occupied by the Neapolitan troops.

It will depend on the account which I receive by the next arrival from Naples whether I may deem it advisable to repair thither with the squadron for the purpose of placing myself in closer communication with your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 244.

Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.

Naples, July 23, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., had the honour to state to his Excellency the Prince of Cariati, in his note of the 17th instant relative to the usurpation of the British flag by the officer in command of the Neapolitan steam-vessel of war "Stromboli," for the purpose of ensnaring two unarmed vessels off the coast of Corfu, that he reserved the conduct of that officer in thus maltreating a friendly ensign for the consideration of the Commander-in-chief of Her Britannic Majesty's naval forces in the Mediterranean.

The Undersigned is now enabled to communicate to his Excellency the Prince of Cariati the opinion of Sir William Parker, from which it results—

1st. That the exhibition of a neutral ensign, though such a deception be sometimes abusively practised, is not strictly justifiable, and that it becomes most obnoxious when the ships of the Power whose flag is thus adopted are liable to mingle with the belligerents.

2nd. That corroborative evidence ought to be adduced to prove the way in which the British colours were used and at what distance from Corfu the above-mentioned capture took place.

3rd. That positive orders ought to be issued by the Neapolitan Government against the British colours being again hoisted on board the vessels of war of His Sicilian Majesty.

The Undersigned would still learn with satisfaction that the Neapolitan Government are prepared to correct their previous error in refusing him permission to confer with two credible persons among the number of the Sicilian prisoners for the purpose of eliciting testimony conclusively satisfactory to the Vice-Admiral; and he hopes that his Excellency Prince Cariati will enable him to assure Sir William Parker on his arrival at Naples that the practice of hoisting British colours for purposes of deception will henceforth be abandoned by the Navy of His Sicilian Majesty.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 244.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Hibernia," Palermo, July 21, 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt this morning of your Lordship's two letters of the 19th instant by the French screw-steamer "Penguin," and have now the honour to inform you by the return of the "Solon," that the French steam-frigate "Descartes" proceeded at 2 p.m. to Genoa with the deputation from the Provisional Government at Palermo to compliment the new King of Sicily.

The Commission comprised the individuals named in the inclosed list, and they were also accompanied by the Sardinian Consul.

In consequence of apprehensions being entertained that a Neapolitan steamer was cruising to intercept the "Palermo" on her route to Genoa, applications were made to myself and Vice-Admiral Baudin two days ago to afford her the convoy of a ship of war, but as this was incompatible with our position as neutrals the French Admiral spontaneously offered the services of the "Descartes," which also conveyed a courier charged to proceed direct to London with the despatches of the Provisional Government, and by whom I transmitted my communications to the Admiralty.

I believe he conveys bills of exchange for 13,000*l.* and upwards as the first instalment for the purchase of two steam-vessels for the service of this island, and cash has also been sent by the "Descartes" for the procurement of such munitions of war as can be obtained at Genoa.

It is my present intention to repair to Naples with Her Majesty's squadron to-morrow or the following day unless I previously receive a communication by the "Panama" (now hourly expected), which may render this movement unnecessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 245.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 27, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd instant, inclosing copy a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, of which I imparted an extract to the Neapolitan Government, I have now the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note from his Excellency Prince Cariati, stating that orders will be given to the Neapolitan Navy to abandon the practice of hoisting the British colours for the purpose of deception, on condition however that the same liberty be refused to the Sicilians.

I was enabled to inform Prince Cariati in reply, that long ago in the month of March Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo with the sanction of Her Majesty's Legation, had forbid the Sicilians the use of Her Majesty's ensign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 245.

Prince Cariati to Lord Napier.

Napoli, 25 Luglio, 1848.

IN riscontro della nota di Lord Napier, &c., in data del 23 corrente intorno all' uso fatto dal piroscalo della Real Marina lo "Stromboli" della bandiera Britannica, nel predare i due legni di rivoltosi Siciliani fuggiti dalle Calabrie, il Sottoscritto, &c., dichiara che dal giornale del Capitano Salazar, comandante della detta corvetta, depositato presso il Ministro della Marina, risulta con la maggiore evidenza, che la condotta dello stesso non può andar soggetto a censura di sorte alcuna, in tale incontro, perchè al momento in cui osserò la cattura portava la bandiera Napolitana ne trovavasi nelle acque di Corfù. Intanto il Real Governo per secondare le brame del Signor Ammiraglio Parker onde non esporre nelle presenti circostanze i bastimenti di Sua Maestà Britannica a danni, a cui potrebbero andar soggetti, ha disposto che le navi della Real Marina non facciano più uso de' colori Britannici, domandando però, per giusto diritto di reciprocanza che lo stesso si esiga da' Siciliani i quali in più rincontri hanno adoperato la bandiera Inglese per isfuggire alle crociere della Real Marina e per isbarcare nella Calabrie masse armate comandate da individui che piace al Signor Ammiraglio qualificar di rispettabile, ma che non di meno non ostante la di loro nobile origine, ed il dispiacere che dee risentirsi dal vederla macechiata, sonosi fatti capi di sudditi ribelli recrutati nelle prigioni e ne bagni della Sicilia per

iovadere i territori di un Sovrano amico ed alleato della Gran Bretagna; che hanno con la loro condotta pienamente giustificata la loro esecuzione, portandovi il disordine, la guerra civile, e commettendovi ogni maniera di guasti, rapine ed orrori, delle quali per lungo tempo serberanno memoria quelle provincie.

Il Sottoseritto ha già fatto conoscere al Signor Incaricato di Affari il parere emesso dal Ministro della Giustizia intorno alla richiesta d'interrogare alcuni de' prigionieri Siciliani, da cui evidentemente risulta che le vigenti leggi del regno ostano al conseguimento dei suoi desideri. Il Sottoseritto non può che uniformarsi, e certamente niuno meglio di un suddito Inglese dee conoscere l'impossibilità d'infrangerle, e la grave responsabilità in che incorrerebbe un Ministro che tanto osasse, per cui si augura che Lord Napier vorrà prendere in considerazione tale imperiosa ragione diverse volte ripetuta, e rinuncierà a siffatta domanda.

Profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PE. DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, July 25, 1848.

IN answer to the note of Lord Napier, &c., of the 23rd current, respecting the use made by the "Stronboli" of the British flag in capturing the two ships with the Sicilian rebels who were escaping from Calabria, the Undersigned, &c., declares that from the log of Captain Salazar, commander of the said corvette, which has been deposited with the Minister of War, it clearly appears that the conduct of the said captain cannot in any way merit censure, because at the moment in which the capture took place he was sailing under the Neapolitan flag and was not in the Corfu waters.

In the meantime the King's Government, in accordance with the wishes of Admiral Parker, and so as not to expose Her Britannic Majesty's ships to the injuries which they might possibly suffer, has given orders that the ships of the King's Navy shall no longer make use of the British colours, demanding however, on the just ground of reciprocity, that the same shall be required of the Sicilians, who in many cases have hoisted English colours to escape from the Neapolitan cruizers and to disembark in Calabria armed hands headed by persons whom the Admiral is pleased to call "respectable," but who, notwithstanding their noble origin and the grief which one must feel at seeing that origin so stained, have acted as the chiefs of rebellious subjects recruited from the prisons and bagnios of Sicily to invade the country of a Sovereign friendly to and an ally of Great Britain, and who by their conduct is promoting disorder and civil war and committing every kind of pillage, rapine and horror which will for a long time be preserved in the memory of those provinces, have fully merited their present condition.

The Undersigned has already communicated to the Chargé d'Affaires the opinion of the Minister of Grace and Justice respecting his request of interrogating some of the Sicilian prisoners, from which it is clear that the existing laws of the kingdom prevent his request being granted. The Undersigned can only act according to those laws, and certainly no one ought to know better than an English subject, the impossibility of breaking through them, and the immense responsibility which a Minister would incur who dared to do so; and therefore it is hoped that Lord Napier will take into consideration these strong reasons, which have been already many times repeated, and will desist from his demand.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE OF CARIATI.

No. 246.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 29, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that Her Majesty's squadron, enumerated in the margin*, under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, anchored this evening in the roads of Naples.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

* *Hibernia*, 104; *Queen*, 108; *Howe*, 120; *Rodney*, 92; *Vanguard*, 80; *Vengeance*, 84; *Superb*, 80; *Thetis*, 36. Steam-vessels, *Bulldog* and *Hecla*.

No. 247.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

Naples, July 31, 1848.

HAVING obtained information from the British Vice-Consul at Reggio that there was a Maltese British subject, by name Dionisio Cavallaro, among the number of the Sicilian prisoners captured by the "Stromboli," I immediately addressed the inclosed note to his Excellency the Prince of Cariati, desiring leave to communicate with him, and that orders might be delivered for his being treated in a humane manner.

By his Excellency's reply inclosed herewith I learned that the British subject above mentioned had been in confinement for thirteen days without having been submitted to any examination whatever, so that his nationality was actually unknown to the Neapolitan authorities; and I was also informed from private sources that all the prisoners in the gaols of Nisida, to which they had been conveyed from Reggio, were subjected to the greatest hardships and totally abandoned to filth and misery.

Prince Cariati at the same time refused me the required access to the accused on the same grounds for which I had been previously debarred from seeing two of the Sicilian leaders, namely, that the laws of Naples forbid all intercourse between a person arrested on criminal imputation and others, before the preparation of the depositions and his regular committal for trial.

On the arrival of Her Majesty's squadron I repeated my demand, for the reasons urged in my second note inclosed herewith, and the Neapolitan Government in their letter of the 30th instant to Sir William Parker have offered to place the prisoner at his disposal, a concession which neither the Vice-Admiral nor Her Majesty's Legation ever asked; for it forms no part of our wishes to shield the accused from the punishment which he may possibly merit, but merely to inquire into the circumstances of his capture and his subsequent treatment, and to insist on his open and immediate trial.

With respect to the objection offered by the Neapolitan Government to the communication of the accused at this stage of proceedings with Her Majesty's Legation, if there be any law forbidding it, which is at least doubtful, it is certainly habitually disregarded; and at the very moment the Minister of Grace and Justice was excluding me by a solemn appeal to the integrity of the laws from access to the prison, many persons in a private station were openly going to see their friends and relatives in confinement, in which they found no impediment whatever.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 247.

Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.

Naples, July 23, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to acquaint his Excellency the Prince of Cariati, &c., that he has been informed that among the Sicilians made prisoners on a late occasion by the Neapolitan steam-vessel "Stromboli," which used Her Majesty's ensign surreptitiously to entrap them, there is a Maltese British subject, named Dionisio Cavallaro, as appears by his passport at present in the hands of the Undersigned.

The Undersigned deeply regrets that one of Her Britannic Majesty's subjects should have been found in company with persons who lie under the imputation of having invaded the territories of His Sicilian Majesty; but while the Undersigned disclaims all intention of extenuating the culpability which would attach to the perpetration of such an act on the part of a British subject, should it be proved against him, it is the duty of the Undersigned to ascertain with the greatest nicety whether the British subject above mentioned fell into the hands of the Neapolitan authorities by lawful means, and especially whether the British ensign was kept flying at the time of his capture by the Neapolitan steam vessel of war, and at what distance from Corfu that capture was effected.

The Undersigned has already, by the goodness of his Excellency the Prince of Cariati, been placed in possession of a report from the officer in command of the "Stromboli" in illustration of these points, it will now be his duty to compare with that report the testimony of the British subject in question, and consequently he begs Prince Cariati will have the goodness to inform him with the least possible delay, where the said Dionisio Cavallaro is at present confined, and give orders that he may be allowed to communicate freely with the Undersigned or with any member of Her Majesty's Legation deputed for that purpose.

The Undersigned cannot avoid expressing some surprise that a British subject should have been eleven days in the hands of the Neapolitan authorities and no communication made to Her Majesty's Legation, but the Undersigned feels sure that on being made acquainted with the fact, his Excellency the Prince of Cariati will cause instructions to be given to treat him with due regard until the legality of his capture be verified.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 247.

Prince Cariati to Lord Napier.

Napoli, 25 Luglio, 1848.

NON appena il Sottoscritto, Ministro, &c., ha ricevuto la nota di Lord Napier, &c., in data del 23 corrente, con la quale partecipa che tra i Siciliani catturati dallo "Stromboli" trovasi un Maltese suddito Britannico, per nome Dionisio Cavallaro, ha pregato il suo collega Ministro della Guerra di praticare le convenienti ricerche onde conoscere il luogo in cui trovasi, affinché possa venire trattato con quei riguardi dettati dalla umanità e dalla civiltà dei tempi.

In quanto alla richiesta d'interrogarlo, il Sottoscritto dee per lo stesso riferirsi a quanto trovasi di aver già esposto riguardo a' sudditi Siciliani in unione de' quali è stato predato, ne sa comprendere qual fiducia potrebbe riporsi nella testimonianza di un incolpato, il quale deve essere naturalmente portato ad occultare il vero, nella lusinga di essere assoluto ed ottenere la libertà.

Ignorava il Real Governo la esistenza di un Maltese tra i ribelli Siciliani, che hanno tentato con le armi alla mano d'invadere le Calabrie, e vi han commesso ogni specie di orrori, per lo che non ne è dato avviso al Signor Incaricato di Affari.

Si avvale egli, &c.

(Firmato)

PE. DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, July 25, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., immediately on the receipt of the note of Lord Napier, &c., of the 23rd instant, in which he informs him that there is a Maltese British subject named Dionisio Cavallaro amongst the Sicilians captured by the "Stromboli," requested his colleague the Minister of War to cause search to be made so as to find out the place in which he is confined, so that he may experience that treatment which humanity and civilization dictate. But as regards the power of interrogating him the Undersigned can only refer to what he has already stated with regard to the Sicilian subjects in whose company he was captured, nor can he understand what faith can be placed in the testimony of an accused person, as he must clearly have an interest in hiding the truth in the hope of being thereby acquitted and obtaining his liberty.

The King's Government were ignorant that there was also a Maltese among the Sicilian rebels who with arms in their hands have tried to invade Calabria and have committed there every sort of horror, and for that reason did not give information of his arrest to the Chargé d'Affaires.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PCE. CARIATI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 247.

*Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.**Naples, July 29, 1848.*

THE Undersigned, &c. has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a note from his Excellency the Prince of Cariati, &c., of the 25th instant, by which the Undersigned is refused liberty of access to Dionisio Cavallaro, a Maltese British subject captured by the "Stromboli" and confined in some place unknown at the above date to the Neapolitan Government.

From Prince Cariati's communication the Undersigned must draw the inference that the British subject above mentioned has been thirteen days in the hands of the officers of His Sicilian Majesty without being subjected to any preliminary interrogatory or examination, for otherwise he could hardly have failed declaring his nationality, and the competent authority would scarcely have omitted to make known his case to the Neapolitan Government.

His Excellency Prince Cariati will observe that Dionisio Cavallaro was not captured on the Neapolitan territory in flagrant violation of the Neapolitan laws; he lies under weighty imputations, but the mere fact of sailing under the Sicilian flag in company with Sicilian invaders does not constitute his guilt; he might possibly have been associated with them by ignorance, by accident, or by compulsion. But the detention of a person for such a length of time without his interrogation by the competent authority is a breach of the penal laws of Naples, which distinctly provide that the accused, whether arrested in flagrant guilt or on suspicion, is to be immediately examined and one part of that examination is to have particular reference to his nationality.

The Undersigned therefore, considering the irregular manner in which Her Britannic Majesty's subject has apparently been treated, was justified in demanding liberty to confer with him and interrogate him either in person or by deputy in the presence of a Neapolitan functionary.

With respect to the statement of the Minister of Grace and Justice, that the existing Neapolitan laws forbid any correspondence between a prisoner under accusation and other persons, before the depositions be made and the charge regularly framed against him, the Undersigned has consulted the Article 166 of the Penal Code, particularly cited by his Excellency, and has found that the said Article provides that after the formal preparation of the charge and compilation of the documents and committal of the accused for trial, he is then admitted to the intercourse of his counsel and his friends; but the Undersigned does not discover in Article 166 or elsewhere, that on no account he can be previously approached by other persons, and even if such a regulation do exist, the Undersigned is assured that it is not strictly observed, and it has been certainly little respected in the case of the Sicilian prisoners. Indeed, however this may be, the Undersigned cannot for an instant doubt that the Minister of Grace and Justice would be warranted under the circumstances in admitting the Undersigned exceptionally, or a person appointed by him, to confer with a British subject, and obtain the sanction of his Sovereign and the Legislature in a nominal transgression of the laws, if such there be involved in that act; and the refusal of his Excellency to do so is calculated to arouse a suspicion that there may be some fear of the revelations which the British subject might make, either with regard to the manner of his seizure or his subsequent treatment.

Nor can his Excellency the Prince of Cariati justly plead in justification of the rejection of the demand of the Undersigned, that the said Dionisio Cavallaro does not fall within the scope of the criminal law, for if he be in confinement as a prisoner of war the Undersigned has additional right and reason to procure access to him, in order to ascertain by what means a British subject has come into that position, the Neapolitan Government having neglected to do so for thirteen days, and to obtain assurance that he has been dealt with in the manner due to his condition. The Undersigned has good reason to believe from the testimony of eye-witnesses, that Dionisio Cavallaro in common with others has experienced grievous hardships and deprivations, and a refusal of that food, lodging, and convenience usually granted to prisoners whether under criminal imputation or made in war.

In conclusion the Undersigned cannot but observe that the course pursued

by the Neapolitan Government is the more surprising, because at the very time the Undersigned, the Representative of a foreign and friendly Power, is refused the freedom of seeing a subject of his Sovereign for the purpose of interrogating him, many persons in a private station have to the certain knowledge of the Undersigned been allowed to visit their relatives and friends imprisoned at Nisida on the same charge.

The Undersigned now finds it his duty to mark in the strongest manner his sense of the injustice committed by the Neapolitan authorities in not having ascertained in the lawful manner and at an earlier period the presence of a British subject among the Sicilian prisoners, and by the Government itself in secluding from the intercourse of Her Majesty's Legation that British subject arrested under circumstances never as yet cleared up in a manner conclusively satisfactory to the Undersigned or the Vice-Admiral in command of Her Majesty's naval forces; and he reserves to himself and to his Government a full liberty of future action in the question at issue, and the right to embrace such measures as may be deemed advisable in consequence of the impediment and denial offered by the Neapolitan Government to his just representation.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 248.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 1, 1848.

IN the various communications which have passed between Her Majesty's Legation and the Neapolitan Government respecting the use of the British ensign by the Neapolitan steamer of war "Stromboli," in the capture of two Sicilian vessels off Corfu, it has been my purpose to obtain accurate information of the actual circumstances under which that transaction took place, and to effect some amelioration in the treatment of the Sicilian prisoners who are abandoned to the deprivations and neglect of a bagnio at Nisida, or secluded in the inaccessible apartments of the Castle of St. Elmo.

Regarding the first point I had at the beginning the testimony of a young English lady, the wife of a Neapolitan officer made prisoner by the Sicilians, and on board one of their vessels at the time of their surrender; but she was not on deck, may probably have been considerably agitated, and could scarcely be considered either an impartial or competent witness, her husband being under arrest for trial in consequence of his capture in company with the fugitives.

There was also a verbal account occasionally delivered by an English engineer of the "Stromboli" to Mr. Beek, but so uncircumstantial as to be of no weight. The engineer subsequently left Naples in the "Stromboli;" but though he be now returned I do not care to interrogate him further for he has been rewarded by the Neapolitan Government with a sum of money and a fowling-piece, and would incur the danger of losing his employment if he told the truth.

In addition to these unsatisfactory sources of evidence the Neapolitan Government placed in my hands a report of Captain Salazar of the "Stromboli," which in the opinion of Sir William Parker is by no means sufficiently particular and convincing, and which a most trustworthy person assures me he knows to have been interpolated and dressed up in the office of General Ischitella, Minister of War.

It will consequently not appear surprising to your Lordship if I desired to compare the account adduced by the Neapolitan Government with the testimony of the Sicilian leaders; and had the former met me frankly and admitted me to confer with M. Ribotti and M. Faróella, I would have sifted and compared the evidence in a spirit of perfect fairness and with an inclination to believe that the Neapolitan officer had neither exceeded the common practice of hoisting a neutral flag for the purpose of deception, nor violated the waters of Her Majesty's territory by capturing the Sicilians within cannon-shot of Corfu.

But when I was refused the liberty of seeing the Sicilian commanders, and more than that debarred from all intercourse with a British subject who had

remained in confinement for thirteen days without being interrogated according to the Neapolitan laws in the bagnios of Reggio and Nisida, my suspicions were confirmed, and I directed Mr. Fagan to go down to Nisida and obtain access to several of the prisoners; he did so, and heard the story of four persons separately, who all agreed in asserting that the first shot was fired by the "Stromboli" under British colours, and that the trabacolo or smaller Sicilian vessel at least was taken within swimming distance of the shore.

Similar statements were elicited and communicated by others, and the inclosed memorial has been handed me by M. Tofano the counsel of the prisoners.

I place no implicit confidence in the allegations of interested parties; but I presume that such information, coupled with the evasive conduct of the Neapolitan Government, establish the necessity of going into a careful investigation of the case and appealing to Corfu for additional evidence.

This opinion was already shared by Sir William Parker; but since the log-book of the "Stromboli" has been submitted to his inspection, the Vice-Admiral's doubts have been greatly strengthened, for he does not find in that document the usual details of hours, distance, and progress.

The Neapolitan Government have also produced a copy of a pretended log kept on board one of the Sicilian vessels, which states it to have been at a distance of twenty miles from Corfu at daybreak on the 11th of July; but in the figure 20 there are marks of alteration.

Mr. Fagan has reported to me that the prisoners at Nisida suffer the greatest hardships, being forced to sleep on the floor of a damp grol without bedding; they receive the poorest fare, black bread, beans, and water, have no medical assistance, are covered with vermin and rags, and suffer from fever and rheumatism. I do not apprehend that their lot is worse than that of other prisoners, or that they are the objects of intentional cruelty or deliberate privations, but they are merely the victims of the carelessness and neglect which reign alike in all the hulks, bagnios, and dungeons of the Neapolitan dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 248.

Memorial of the Sicilian Prisoners captured by the "Stromboli."

I SICILIANI catturati dal vapore Napolitano lo "Stromboli" reclamano a di loro prò il diritto pubblico delle genti e la protezione generosa e leale della nazione Inglese, che non può non chiamarsi offesa pel modo e pel sito della preda.

Eglino formano parte della milizia regolarmente organizzata dal Governo di Sicilia. Comandati in linea gerarchica dal detto Governo discesero nelle Calabrie, ove portaronsi meno per favorire la insurrezione, quanto per impossessarsi delle batterie e de' siti strategici che restano di rincontro Messina, onde impedire che fosse approvisionata e soccorsa la cittadella ed obbligarla in tal modo alla resa.

Le colonne della truppa Napolitana mandarono deluso questo loro progetto, ed eglino per fortuna di guerra furono obbligati a rimbarcarsi nella marina di Cantanzaro.

I documenti dati alle stampe si nel giornale ufficiale del 30 Giugno, che nel giornale ministeriale il "Tempo," giustificano i fatti di sopra espressi.

Erano giunti nella acque di Corfù (dominio Inglese) ed erano sì presso a quelle isole che non solo distinguevansi le abitazioni e gli abitanti, ma benanche per la minima distanza uno di esso loro potette gettarsi a nuoto e giungere alla riva.

Fu in quelle acque ed in quel sito che hen da lontano e fuori del tiro del cannone si scorre un vapore che inalberava bandiera Inglese, che avvicinandosi li chiamò all'ubbidienza con un colpo di cannone senza cambiar vessillo, in modochè il detto colpo vibrato assicurò la bandiera.

Allora i due navigli su cui erano gli esponenti imbarcati anzichè proseguire la rotta per Corfu si avvicinarono al detto vapore credendolo legno Inglese. Ma dopo

poco conobbero l'inganno in cui erano stati tratti, poichè dal vapore si vibrava un colpo a palla e dipoi s'innalzava il vessillo Napolitano.

Ecco i veri fatti della loro cattura, da cui risulta il duplice abuso consumato dal Comandante lo "Stromboli," per essersi servito impropriamente della bandiera Inglese, e per aver eseguita la preda nei domini Ingresi.

Il Governo Napolitano avrebbe dovuto rimandarli liberi e senza condizione al Governo Siciliano, e finchè tanto non si fosse effettuato avrebbe dovuto trattarli come prigionieri di guerra. Nulla di tutto ciò. Essi giacciono ristretti e stivati nell'ergastolo di Nisita (eccetto pochi detenuti sotto chiave nel Forte S. Elmo), e dopo aver sofferto molti e molti partimenti e non poche sevizie, ivi restano quasi nudi col meschinissimo cibo de' condannati a' ferri ed obbligati a dormire sulla nuda terra.

Tra essi forse vi son pochi che evasero dai luoghi di pena e si arrollarono nelle milizie, ma la maggioranza si compone di cittadini godenti la integrità de' loro diritti e trà quali si noverano 164 galantuomini appartenenti a famiglie distinti e civili della Sicilia.

Ne' fatali dissidi tra la Sicilia ed il Regno di Napoli molti militari Napolitani soffrono colla la prigionia di guerra, ma vennero però trattati con ogni riguardo, scrupolosamente nulla si fe loro mancare, i feriti furono curati nelle case più cospicue di Palermo, si usarono tutti i modi per raddolcire le pene inseparabili dalla prigionia, e dipoi tutti si rimandarono in questo reame. Il diritto delle genti li prescriveva, l'umanità li comandava.

Non hanno altro ad aggiungere. Dissero quanto è bastevole per far noto le loro ragioni. Si attendono i risultamenti di regola consentite e reclamati dal diritto pubblico delle genti e da quello internazionale.

(Translation.)

THE Sicilians captured by the Neapolitan steamer "Stromboli" claim the benefit of the public law of nations and the generous and just protection of England, who must of necessity feel herself insulted by the manner and place in which they were taken.

They form part of the troops regularly organized by the Government of Sicily. By the especial orders of that Government they disembarked in Calabria, not so much for the purpose of favouring the insurrection as to get possession of the batteries and military positions which are opposite Messina, and thereby to cut off all supplies and reinforcements from the citadel, and force it to capitulate.

The columns of Neapolitan troops caused these projects to fail, and they were forced by the fortune of war to re-embark on the shore of Catanzaro.

The documents published in the official journal of June 30, as well as in the ministerial paper the "Tempo," prove the truth of the above-mentioned facts.

They had arrived in the Corfu waters (under the English rule) and were so near that island that they could not only distinguish the houses and inhabitants, but one of them was able to jump into the water and reach the shore.

In these waters and in this position they discovered a steamer at a great distance and out of cannon-shot, which hoisted English colours, and which on approaching brought them to, with a cannon shot without changing the flag, so that the said shot proved the nationality of the ensign (assicurò la bandiera).

Then, in consequence the two ships on board of which were the deponents, instead of proceeding on their way to Corfu approached the steamer believing it to be an English ship; but after a short time they saw the error into which they had fallen, because a ball came from the steamer, and the Neapolitan flag was hoisted.

This is the true account of their capture, from which is manifest the twofold impropriety of the conduct of the Commander of the "Stromboli;" first in improperly making use of the English flag, and secondly, in capturing them within the English dominions.

The Neapolitan Government ought to have sent them free and unconditionally to the Sicilian Government, and until this took place ought to have treated them as prisoners of war. But nothing of the sort has taken place. They lie cooped up and stowed like merchandize in the dungeons of Nisida, except a

few who are in close confinement in Fort S. Elmo; and after undergoing many sufferings and not a little cruelty they are left there almost naked, with the scanty food of the condemned galley-slave and obliged to sleep upon the bare ground.

Amongst them there are perhaps a few who came out from places of punishment and enrolled themselves amongst the troops, but the greater part are composed of citizens in the full possession of their public rights, amongst whom there are 164 gentlemen belonging to distinguished families of Sicily.

In the fatal discords which have taken place between Sicily and the Kingdom of Naples, many Neapolitan soldiers were taken as prisoners of war, but they were treated with every regard; scrupulous attention was paid to their wants, their wounded were taken care of in the best houses of Palermo, and every means were adopted to alleviate as much as possible the pain inseparable from the prisoner's state; and lastly, they were sent back to this kingdom. The law of nations prescribed this course, and humanity dictated it.

They have nothing more to add; they have said enough to prove their rights; and they await the corresponding results founded on the principles of public and international law.

No. 249.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 1, 1848.

VICE-ADMIRAL Sir William Parker addressed me on the 29th ultimo, by Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Bulldog," the accompanying letter* announcing his approach to Naples, and explaining the motives which induced him to anchor the whole of Her Majesty's squadron off the city, in contravention of the rule laid down by the Neapolitan Government, which allows the presence of only four foreign ships of war of one nation in the roads. The Vice-Admiral also thought it right to withhold the usual salute until the questions under discussion with the Neapolitan Government could be brought to an amicable solution. After consulting Sir William Parker I forwarded a copy of his letter to Prince Cariati in the inclosed note, and on the following morning (July 30th) I called on his Excellency and remonstrated with him on the absurdity of incurring the danger of a serious misunderstanding with the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's Naval Forces by denying him satisfaction on the trifling point of a shot fired into a merchant-brig at Messina, and by refusing to Her Majesty's Legation the reasonable request of liberty to communicate with a British subject in prison.

The attitude assumed by Sir William Parker produced an immediate change of councils at the Palace, and before eight a communication, transmitted herewith, was made to the Vice-Admiral and Her Majesty's Legation, which if not definitively satisfactory is at least conceived in a very different spirit from those which have lately reached me.

Sir William Parker then empowered me to forward to Prince Cariati a preliminary reply in anticipation of his personal answer, and having saluted the forts yesterday morning he attended the drawing-room in honour of the birthday of Her Majesty the Queen.

The Neapolitan Government having gone into further explanations regarding the use of the British ensign by the Neapolitan steam-vessel of war "Stromboli," and its commander, has submitted to the Admiral's perusal the log-book of the ship; but Sir William Parker having had his suspicions rather strengthened than removed, has reserved his final judgment until he can obtain intelligence from the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, as your Lordship will observe from the tenour of the annexed letter to his Excellency the Prince of Cariati.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

* See Inclosure 2 in No. 239.

Inclosure 1 in No. 249.

*Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.**Naples, July 29, 1848.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to communicate herewith to his Excellency the Prince of Cariati, &c., copy of a letter which he has this evening received from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, explaining the motives of his proceeding to Naples with the squadron under his command, and of his anchoring the whole of his force in front of the city.

Regarding two of the points touched on by Sir W. Parker, his Excellency has been satisfied by the explanations offered to him by the Undersigned; viz., respecting the forced loan which is already abandoned by the Neapolitan Government, and the future use of the British ensign for the purpose of deception, which has also been disclaimed.

The Vice-Admiral awaits with impatience any further explanations with respect to the circumstances of the late capture of the two Sicilian vessels by the "Stromboli" which his Excellency Prince Cariati may think fit to give; and he has learned with surprise that the Neapolitan Government instead of offering a simple expression of regret on account of the discharge of a musket-ball at Messina into the English brig "Edward Barnett," has sought to deny the fact entirely by producing the counter-depositions which have been submitted to the consideration of the Vice-Admiral by the Undersigned.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 249.

*Prince Cariati to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.**Napoli, 30 Luglio, 1848.*

PER mezzo di Lord Napier, &c., il Sottoscritto, &c., ha ricevuto copia della lettera da sua Eccellenza il Signor Ammiraglio Guglielmo Parker allo stesso diretta in data di 29 del corrente, relativa allo prestito forzoso, all' uso fatto della bandiera Britannica dalla corvetta della Real Marina lo "Stromboli" nel catturare i Napoletani e Siciliani reifuggitivi dalle Calabrie, alla distanza a cui trovavansi da Corfù, ed al colpo di fucile, che si asserisce essere stato tirato dal Forte San Salvatore di Messina sul brik del Capitano "Edward Barnett."

Il Real Governo si è fatto sempre un dovere di rispondere con la maggior chiarezza a tutti i reclami ripetutamente avanzati di Lord Napier per tali oggetti, e dee credere che la intera corrispondenza sia stata esattamente portata a cognizione del Signor Ammiraglio, ma se ciò non avesse avuto luogo, il Sottoscritto sarebbe pronto a spedire presso della Eccellenza sua persona di sua fiducia col fine di dileguare ogni dubbio intorno alla retta e leale condotta del Real Governo.

Per l'affare del prestito trovasi già rivotato, e quindi non vi è luogo a discussione.

In quanto poi alla maniera in cui si è condotto il Capitano dello "Stromboli" nel predare i legni su cui trovavansi imbarcati i Siciliani e Napolitani, il Real Governo a disposto che lo stesso si rechi immediatamente presso l'Eccellenza sua col libro del suo bordo, dal quale risulta la più patenta giustificazione e la legalità del suo operare, e per somministrare nello stesso tempo di viva voce qui maggiori schiarimenti di cui potrà essere richiesto. Ed a convalidare quanto è stato già partecipato su tale assunto a Lord Napier, il Sottoscritto a l'onore di rimettere a sua Eccellenza il Signor Ammiraglio, l'estratto delle deposizioni del nominato Longo, le di cui vicende, sono ben note all' Eccellenza sua e che per la gravità del suo delitto altro mezzo non avrebbe forse potuto rinvenire onde sottrarsi alla pena capitale, se non quello di dichiarare irregolari le operazioni dello "Stromboli."

Un cittadino Francese che trovasi ugualmente trà Siciliani arrestati a deposto conformemente al Longo. E qual valore potrebbero avere le dichiarazioni degli

altri prigionieri in confronto di quella del Longo? E non sono essi oltremodo interessati ad occultare o travisare il vero per ottenere la libertà?

Il suddito Maltese Dionisio Cavallare essendo stato catturato in unione de' Napolitani e Siciliani fuggitivi dalle Calahrie, dovrebbe per ogni diretto correre la medesima sorte degl' individui della banda di cui faceva parte; ciò non ostante per fare cosa grata al Signor Ammiraglio, si affretta il Real Governo di porlo a sua piena disposizione.

Da rapporti giunti al Real Governo non sembra probabile che un colpo di fucile tirato dal Forte S. Salvatore abbia potuto giungere sino al hrik del Capitano "Edward Barnett;" ma qualora fosse ciò avvenuto, il Governo ne sarebbe oltremodo dispiaciuto, non avendo mai cessato di avere per la bandiera di Sua Maestà Britannica i riguardi dovuti da un Governo amico.

Si augura il Sottoscritto che tali schiarimenti saranno sufficienti a dileguare ogni dubbio che abbia potuto nascere nell' animo di sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Parker intorno alla giustizia ed alla lealtà che il Real Governo ha scrupolosamente seguite in tutti le sue relazioni verso quello della Gran Bretagna, ed a far chiaro il suo costante e vivo desiderio di mantenere e sempre più stringere gl' intimi legami di amicizia e di buona armonia da lunghissimi anni esistenti tra i due Governi.

Copia della presente è stata passata a Lord Napier per sua intelligenza.

Profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PRIN. DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, July 30, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has received from Lord Napier, &c., the copy of a letter of the 22th instant, addressed to him by his Excellency Admiral Parker, respecting the forced loan; the use made of the British flag by the "Stromboli" in capturing the Neapolitan and Sicilian culprits who were escaping from Corfu; the distance from Corfu at which they were taken; and respecting the musket-shot which it is asserted was fired from Fort Salvatore in Messina upon the brig "Edward Barnett."

The Royal Government has always considered it its duty to give the clearest possible answers to the reclamations repeatedly advanced by Lord Napier upon these points, and is bound to suppose that the whole correspondence has been correctly laid before the Admiral; but should this not have taken place the Undersigned is ready to send a confidential person to his Excellency so as to dissipate all doubt as to the straightforward and loyal conduct of the King's Government.

As regards the forced loan that measure has been already annulled, and therefore nothing more need be said about it.

As to the manner in which the captain of the "Stromboli" behaved in capturing the ships on board of which were the Sicilians and Neapolitans, the Royal Government has given orders that he should call immediately on His Excellency with his log-book, which clearly justifies him and proves the legality of his conduct, and at the same time to give *virâ voce* any other information which may be required of him.

In corroboration moreover of what has already been said to Lord Napier on this subject, the Undersigned has the honour to transmit to his Excellency the Admiral an extract from the depositions of Longo, the circumstances of whose case are well known to his Excellency, and who from the grievous nature of his crime would not probably have been able to find any other method of avoiding capital punishment than that of declaring illegal the operations of the "Stromboli."

A French citizen who is also amongst the Sicilian prisoners has deposed to the same effect as Longo. And what value could the depositions of the other prisoners bear in comparison to that of Longo? And are not they especially interested in hiding or distorting the truth in order to obtain their liberty?

As the Maltese subject Dionisio Cavallaro was taken in company with the Neapolitans and Sicilians who were escaping from Calabria, he ought in justice to share the lot of the members of the band of which he formed a part; nevertheless in order to gratify the Admiral the Royal Government hastens to place him at his disposal.

From the reports which have reached the Royal Government it does not seem probable that a musket-shot from Fort Salvatore should have reached the brig "Edward Barnett;" but should that have taken place the Royal Government would be extremely grieved at it, as it has never ceased to pay the British flag the respect due from a friendly Government.

The Undersigned trusts that these explanations will be sufficient to dissipate any doubt which may have arisen in the mind of his Excellency Sir William Parker respecting the justness and loyalty with which the Royal Government has always scrupulously acted towards that of Great Britain, and to prove the lively desire which it feels to maintain firm the bonds of friendship and good harmony which have for so many years existed between the two Governments.

A copy of this note has been sent to Lord Napier for his information.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE OF CARIATI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 249.

Deposition of Lieutenant Longo.

NEL costituito fatto dal Tenente D. Giacomo Longo, del Reggimento Regina Artiglieria, innanzi il Consiglio di Guerra subitanco, reunito il 20 Luglio, 1848, vi è il seguente Articolo:—

Imbarcati alla marina di Cantazaro impossessandosi di due legni mercantile, e propriamente nella marina di Suvarata, ci mettemmo alla vela e per le acque del Ionio ci dirigevamo a Corfù, alla vista della quale isola il mattino degli 11 andante scrovvimmo un vapore, mentre da principio navigava senza bandiera, ivi seguito inalberò la bandiera Inglese. Quando fu a portata di chiamarci all'ubbidienza assiecurò la bandiera Napolitana con un tiro di cannone a polvere, avendo ammainata quella Inglese che aveva inalberata durante la caccia ed onde tirò un colpo a palla, ma non diretto ai nostri legni; chiamati all'ubbidienza il comandante del brigantino ove eravamo di unità al nostro General Ribotti, si recò a bordo del vapore.

Ribotti rimase a bordo ed il comandante del brigantino ritornando al suo bastimento ci fece conoscere aver ricevuto ordine che tutti noi altri consegnando le armi prima fossimo in dettaglio passati sue vapore, locchè fu eseguito, ed a misura che giungevamo nel suddetto vapore, fumme incatenati a due a due come rimanemmo sino all'arrivo in questo forte ove ci furono tolte le catene.

Stando a bordo ai ferri, intesi un colpo di cannone, e quindi dall'equipaggio si disse ch'era stato scoperto il trabacolo che parimenti fu fatto prigionero con le antecedenti norme.

(Translation.)

In the deposition made by Lieutenant D. Giacomo Longo, of the Royal Artillery Regiment, before a Special Council of War assembled on the 20th July, 1848, there is the following Article:—

Having embarked from the shore of Cantazaro on board two merchant-vessels taken possession of by us, and properly on the coast of Suvarata, we made sail and directed our course through the Ionian waters for Corfu, in sight of which island the morning of the 11th instant we discovered a steamer. Whilst at first she was sailing without colours, she afterwards displayed the English flag. When she was within distance to call on us to surrender, she confirmed the Neapolitan flag with a gun (unshotted), having lowered the English, which she had shown during the chase, and then fired a shot, but not directed at our vessel. Being called on to surrender, the commander of the brigantine where we were with our General Ribotti, went on board the steamer.

Ribotti remained on board, and the commander of the brigantine returning to his vessel, made known to us that he had received orders that we should all deliver up our arms before being transported in detail to the steamer, which was accordingly done, and as soon as we arrived on board the said steamer we were

chained two and two, and remained so until our arrival in this port, where the chains were removed.

Whilst on board in irons I heard the report of a gun, and was then told by the crew that a trabacolo had been observed, which was also captured after the same manner.

Inclosure 4 in No. 249.

Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.

Naples, July 30, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a note from his Excellency the Prince of Cariati, &c., under date of this day, inclosing copy of a letter addressed by his Excellency to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker in explanation of the various points respecting which the Vice-Admiral had remonstrated with the Government of His Sicilian Majesty.

The Undersigned having had occasion to communicate with Sir William Parker, has been empowered by him to make known to Prince Cariati without delay the following expression of his sentiments in reply to the communication of Prince Cariati, in anticipation of the personal answer which the Vice-Admiral will subsequently have the honour to remit.

The Vice-Admiral accepts as perfectly satisfactory the conditional expression of regret offered by the Neapolitan Government on account of the musket-shot fired according to the depositions of British subjects into the English brig "Edward Barnett" at Messina.

The Vice-Admiral is sensible of the generous offer made by the Neapolitan Government to place a Maltese British subject, Dionisio Cavallaro, accused of taking a share in the Calabrese rebellion entirely at his disposal. It forms no part of the Vice-Admiral's wishes to shield an offender from the just severity of the laws; and although he would not pretend to limit the clemency of His Sicilian Majesty, he will feel perfectly satisfied if the Neapolitan Government will issue the proper orders to enable the party accused to be interrogated in the presence of a Neapolitan functionary by a person deputed for that purpose by Her Majesty's Legation, with the view of eliciting any facts relating to his association with the Sicilians, to the manner of his capture, and his treatment in confinement, which may bear upon his case.

Finally, with regard to the use made of Her Britannic Majesty's ensign by the Neapolitan steam-vessel of war "Stromboli" in the capture of the two Sicilian vessels off the coast of Corfu, Sir William Parker will reserve his judgment until he has availed himself of the different sources opened to him by his Excellency Prince Cariati and of intelligence from other quarters; he will receive with due consideration the evidence adduced from the log-book of the "Stromboli" and the evidence of M. Longo, and he will enlarge his information by a reference to the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, and submit a statement of the circumstances thus completed to the judgment of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

The Undersigned is also requested to impart to his Excellency Prince Cariati the hope entertained by Sir William Parker that since the British ensign has been made confessedly in some degree a party and engine in the capture of the Sicilians, the Government of His Sicilian Majesty will direct its attention to the better treatment of the captives, which has hitherto, by the account of eye-witnesses, not been marked by the humanity which their position merits; for the Vice-Admiral cannot disguise from himself and the Neapolitan Government that should the treatment of those prisoners afford any just ground of complaint and become matter of painful notoriety and comment, a strong expression of public feeling would probably be aroused in Great Britain, and Her Britannic Majesty's Government could scarcely fail to take notice of it, in which it might be deemed justified by the employment of the English colours as stated above.

In the meantime the Vice-Admiral recognizing in the communication of his Excellency Prince Cariati a spirit of conciliation and a becoming promptitude

to do justice to his well-grounded representations, will have the honour to offer his salute to-morrow morning to the port of Naples, and will regulate the distribution of the squadron under his command in conformity with the usage appointed by the Neapolitan Government and generally recognized by foreign Powers.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 249.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Prince Cariati.

"Hibernia," off Naples, July 31, 1848.

VICE-ADMIRAL Sir William Parker has had the honour to receive his Excellency Prince Cariati's communication of yesterday, having reference to a letter dated the 29th instant which the Vice-Admiral addressed to Lord Napier on certain points under discussion with the Neapolitan Government, and on which the British squadron was then approaching Naples for the convenience of personal conference.

As Lord Napier has already notified the satisfaction with which the conciliatory tone of Prince Cariati's note has been received, the Vice-Admiral hastens to confirm the contents of his Lordship's observations, and to offer his thanks for the courtesy with which the Captain of the frigate "Tancredi" and the officer commanding the "Stromboli" visited him this morning by the direction of the Royal Government, to explain the circumstances attending the capture of the two vessels which were conveying the Sicilian troops from Calahria to Corfu.

The Vice-Admiral is however bound in candour to state that he has not been able to ascertain by the log-book or any other written document or from the testimony of Lieutenant Salazar, the exact distance which the two vessels were from Corfu when they were respectively seized.

The investigation of the circumstances has in fact tended to impress the Vice-Admiral with the belief that the capture was made nearer to the Ionian territory under the protection of Her Britannic Majesty than he had previously given credit to, and he has since been informed that one individual actually escaped by swimming on shore.

Although the Vice-Admiral receives this assertion with hesitation, it is nevertheless one which demands strict scrutiny, and he hopes that the existing doubts will be cleared up by the reference which he is about to make to the Lord High Commissioner at Corfu and other parties; for neither can Her Britannic Majesty's Government, Lord Napier, or the Vice-Admiral rest satisfied while a shadow of suspicion remains that vessels or individuals of any country in amity with Great Britain have been seized under a violation of Her Majesty's territorial rights and in combination with the deceptive use of her flag.

Pending the settlement of this question the Vice-Admiral trusts he is not overstepping the bounds of his position in reiterating the recommendations of Lord Napier, and strongly urging that the condition of the prisoners who have thus fallen into the hands of the Royal Government should be ameliorated as much as possible, as there can be no doubt that Her Majesty's Government and the whole community of the United Kingdom of Great Britain will view with the utmost dissatisfaction and jealousy any act of severity against persons who have been imprisoned under the circumstances above adverted to.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

W. PARKER.

No. 250.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 2, 1848.

THE Neapolitan Government have for some time past been meditating an attempt to reconquer Sicily.

A great force of steam-vessels has been assembled at Naples to take in the stores and munitions necessary for such an operation.

It is believed that the troops will be embarked at Reggio and the other ports of Calabria, and that a landing will be effected at several points of the eastern and southern coast of the island.

Much hesitation has however been apparent in the resolutions of the Neapolitan Cabinet, and upwards of a fortnight has been lost, which has enabled the Sicilian Government to arouse the spirit of the population and organize an energetic though irregular resistance. There are but few troops, the coasts are unfortified, the towns are open, but the strength of the nation lies in the turbulent and warlike habits of the peasantry and the hatred of the Neapolitans by which they are believed to be inspired.

If Sicily be really united, the efforts of the Neapolitan Government will be unavailing, and the information which reaches me from various quarters would go to prove that there are but few exceptions to the prevailing sentiments; but there may be some partisans connected with the ancient order of Government, and no doubt all machinery will be put in motion to raise a phantom of a loyalist faction.

There is no day named as yet for the departure of the expedition, and the Neapolitan Government are crippled by the want of funds and the total absence of public sympathy in such an undertaking.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 251.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 4, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Goodwin, describing the preparation making by the Government of Sicily to resist the projected attack of the Neapolitan troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 251.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, July 30, 1848.

GREAT activity prevails on the northern and western coasts in preparing the means of resistance. At Milazzo and Termini the castles have been repaired and the national guards armed and equipped. At Solanto, eighteen miles from Palermo, the fort is about to be garrisoned. The approaches to Palermo have been secured. At Romagnuoli, a mile east of the town, a three gun battery has been erected. At St. Erasmo on the eastern skirts a six gun battery has long been in good order. The Sanità or Health Office is powerfully armed, the Castellamare, the castle at the Mole and the light-house have been severally strengthened. The Fort of the Arenella, on one side of Monte Pellegrino, and that of Mondello on the other, are about to be repaired and garrisoned. The works of Trapani are in good condition, and those of Marsala are in course of renovation; fourteen cannons buried in 1820 have been lately dug up and mounted.

Ammunition is rather short, but fresh supplies are on their way from Toulon and Genoa.

The return of the Minister of War from his tour of inspection on the northern and eastern coast is expected daily.

The enemy will probably land at Syracuse, where the defences are feeble, or at Noto where the public spirit is doubtful. If he land on the southern coast he will meet with but little resistance.

Once landed his difficulties will commence, and the further he goes the more they will thicken. As the corn, now mostly got in and trodden out, will be carried up the country, he will be forced to hear his supplies along with his army. Water of which he will require two gallons a head daily, will probably be wanting. In Girgenti there is but one well of water, other towns are no better

off, and on the carriage roads the drinking places are few and far between. The Sicilians will cut off the water at his approach and retire into the inner and almost inaccessible districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JNO. GOODWIN.

No. 252.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 4, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a note from Prince Cariati stating that measures will be taken to afford a more humane treatment to the Sicilian prisoners, and that Dionisio Cavallaro, a British subject, has been conveyed to the Castle dell' Ovo and is at the disposal of Her Majesty's Legation. I saw the accused last night. He is a native of Zante, not of Malta, as was at first believed, is the son of a small farmer of that island and took service in the army of the King of Greece. Having deserted those colours he fled to Malta, and finding no occupation passed to Messina in the month of March last, where he was employed in drilling the Sicilian troops.

He confesses that he joined the Sicilian force in invading Calabria and that he was captured in the trabacolo or smaller vessel by the "Stromboli."

He declares, in conformity with the assertion of all the Sicilians whom I have been able to reach, that the trabacolo at least was taken within swimming distance of the shore, but he can only state on hearsay that the larger ship was in the Ionian waters at the time of its surrender, and that the first shot was fired by the "Stromboli" under British colours.

Considering the at least doubtful manner of the capture of the trabacolo, the previous liberation of a French subject arrested at the same time, and the violation of the Neapolitan Penal Laws in the imprisonment of Dionisio Cavallaro for twenty-three days without examination or trial, I am inclined to avail myself of the offer of the Neapolitan Government to liberate him, and I shall state my readiness to accept him if I find Sir William Parker of the same opinion, although on his own confession he has been guilty of a serious offence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 252.

Prince Cariati to Lord Napier.

Napoli, 2 di Agosto, 1848.

IL Sottoscritto, &c., in seguito di comunicazione ricevuta dal suo collega di Guerra e Marina, si reca a particolar premura di informare il nobile Lord Napier, &c., che il Maltese Dionisio Cavallaro trovasi già stanziato al Castello del Ovo in Napoli, ed il Signor Incaricato potrà sempre che vorrà ed all' ora che le piacerà, recarvisi, onde parlargli, nella intelligenza che il Comandante del forte a ricevuto l'ordine di non frapporvi impedimento alcuno.

Oltre a ciò il Sottoscritto a l'onore ancora di prevenirle che giusta il volere di Sua Maestà, il Cavallaro è fin da ora alla disposizione di esso Incaricato di Affari, per la qual cosa non dovrà far altro che la domanda per averlo di fatto, onde si possa disporre l'adempimento.

In ultimo si fa un dovere di assicurare Lord Napier che già è stata ordinata una specificata ispezione de' prigionieri in Nisida, all' uopo di distinguere la condizione personale di ognuno di essi e migliorarne proporzionalmente il trattamento, non dovendosi per nulla porre in dubbio l'impegno del Real Governo perchè sia alleviata per quanto è possibile la di loro sofferenza.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Firmato) PRINCIPE DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, August 2, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., in consequence of a communication received from his colleague the Minister of War and Marine, hastens to inform Lord Napier, &c., that the Maltese Dionisio Cavallare is at present in the Castello del Ovo of Naples, and the Chargé d'Affaires can whenever he chooses, and at the hour when he may please, go there and speak to him, with the understanding that the Commander of the said fort has received orders not to put any impediment in the way.

Besides this the Undersigned has the honour to inform him that His Majesty has given orders that Cavallare should be from this moment at the disposal of the Chargé d'Affaires, and that he need do no more than ask for him to get possession of him.

Lastly, the Undersigned makes it his duty to assure Lord Napier that a particular inspection of the prisoners in Nisida has already been ordered for the purpose of distinguishing the personal position of each, and making proportionate ameliorations in their treatment, as there can be no doubt that it is the wish of the Royal Government to alleviate their sufferings as much as possible.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE OF CARIATI.

No. 253.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 8, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, descriptive of the preparations made at Catania on the occasion of a false rumour of the landing of a Neapolitan force at Syracuse.

It may be remarked that Catania is generally named at Naples as the probable scene of a Royalist reaction.

Mr. Goodwin also announces the suppression of the Order of the Jesuits.

The Neapolitan flotilla continues to exercise in the Bay of Naples.

Three steam-vessels and twelve small gun-boats have been dispatched to Reggio with about 800 men, to reinforce the regiments in Calabria which have suffered by sickness and desertion. The rest of the steam-vessels cruise under sail within Capri, and no day is as yet known to be appointed for the embarkation of the troops and the recommencement of hostilities.

His Majesty the King who has not appeared in public since the 16th of May, has twice taken part in the evolutions of the squadron on board one of the steam ships of war, accompanied by Her Majesty the Queen and their children.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 253.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, August 1, 1848.

AN affair has taken place at Catania which shows the resolution and energy of which the Sicilians are capable in case of invasion. On the evening of the 28th July the telegraph announced that a fleet under the national flag was entering the harbour of Syracuse about forty miles off. The effect of the news was striking. Persuaded that the fleet was the Neapolitan the National Guard flew to arms, the labourers collected hocks of lava wherewith to form barricades, the authorities closed and secured the gates, and the citizens lighted up their houses from top to bottom. The night was spent in preparations which the following morning showed to be needless. The tidings of the

29th described those of the day before as a sheer mistake, without stating the cause from which the mistake arose.

The quiet of Girgenti has been lately disturbed by a paper war between the Royalists and the Liberals. One of the former having publicly rejoiced at the capture of the Sicilians, placards were posted up denouncing the Bishop and five or six persons by name as Ferdinandists. This led to a protest from the Bishop, who declared that he was ready to depart should his absence be desirable, and to a counter protest from the Major of the National Guard disavowing hostility to the Bishop.

The Minister of War having ordered six cannons to be removed from Augusta to Syracuse, a placard has been issued in the name of the former city denouncing the Minister as a traitor to his country and calling for his dismissal.

Judging from this adverse statement the Minister is not to blame. He is justified by the danger of invasion, to which Syracuse is more exposed than Augusta.

In Parliament the great event of the week has been the suppression of the Jesuits. The execution of this measure has been hastened by the imprudence of some Jesuits who had used intemperate language in the streets and the pulpits. It will be difficult to find persons well qualified to replace the Jesuits as teachers of the classics, Latin and Italian, in which capacity they have until lately had a high reputation.

The Liquorini, obnoxious on account of Cocle, share the fate of the Jesuits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

No. 254.

The Hon. R. Abercromby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

Turin, August 11, 1848.

I AM informed upon what I consider to be good authority, that the Deputies from the Sicilian Government are likely to be invited to call upon the Sardinian Ministers in a day or two, but that they will not receive any positive answer with regard to the acceptance or refusal of the Crown of Sicily by His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa, the Sardinian Government wishing as I am informed to receive from London some distinct assurance of the intentions of Great Britain with regard to the amount of support which she may or may not be inclined to afford to Sicily, in the event of any hostile attack being made upon that island by His Majesty the King of Naples.

As I have no instructions from your Lordship upon this question, and as I have been given to understand that the Sardinian Government have addressed themselves direct to your Lordship with regard to Sicilian affairs, I have not mixed myself up in what has been passing here between the Government and the Sicilian Deputies, and I now only report to your Lordship what I have heard from private sources with reference to the answer or sort of answer which it is proposed to give.

It is probable also that as the Marquis Pareto is on the eve of quitting office he may prefer leaving the decision of so important a question as the acceptance or rejection of the Crown of Sicily for the Duke of Genoa, to his successor at the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. ABERCROMBY.

No. 255.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord,

Admiralty, August 16, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, dated the 16th July last reporting the arrival of the French squadron at Palermo, and other proceedings at that port.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure in No. 255.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, July 16, 1848.

I REQUEST you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the French squadron named in the margin,* under the command of Vice-Admiral Baudin and Rear-Admiral Tréhouart, arrived this morning at Palermo.

As Vice-Admiral Baudin is senior in that rank to myself it was my intention to have saluted his flag as soon as he anchored, but he anticipated me while under weigh in this compliment, I therefore lost no time after it was returned in paying him a visit on board the "Friedland."

He informs me that after passing a few days at Palermo it is his intention to proceed on leave of absence to the Island of Ischia for the benefit of the baths, leaving the squadron in charge of Rear-Admiral Tréhouart who joined on the evening of the 14th by the "Descartes," having arrived at Naples from Toulon in the "Tonnerre," a steamer of the 2nd class, after the departure of the French squadron.

The "Jemappes" and "Hercule" mentioned in my letter of yesterday, have not I believe left Toulon.

I understand the "Porcupine" proceeded to Genoa twenty-four hours after her arrival at Naples, with the despatches from the Sicilian Government which she carried from hence.

A deputation of ten members selected from the Peers and Commons of the Sicilian Parliament will I believe proceed to-morrow from hence to Genoa with the formal offer of the Crown of this island to the Duke of Genoa.

I propose to forward this letter by that channel, and

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 256.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord,

Admiralty, August 16, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a duplicate letter, dated 21st July, from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, relating to the state of affairs in Sicily.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

* Friedland, 120 guns, flag-ship of Vice-Admiral Baudin; Souverain, 120 guns, flag-ship of Rear-Admiral Tréhouart; Ocean, 120 guns; Jena, 80 guns; Descartes, steam-frigate.

Inclosure in No. 256.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, "Hibernia," Palermo, July 21, 1848, 9 A.M.
 I REQUEST you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that at 8 o'clock this morning I received intimation from Vice-Admiral Baudin that the "Descartes" French steam-frigate will proceed to Genoa at 1 P.M. with the Commission appointed by the Provisional Government of Sicily to compliment the new King.

2. This communication was shortly followed by a visit from M. Stabile, the Sicilian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to apprise me that when Vice-Admiral Baudin declined giving convoy to the Sicilian steamer "Palermo," which was intended to have carried the deputation to Genoa (as referred to in my letter of yesterday), the Vice-Admiral expressed his willingness to convey them in one of the French steam-vessels, of which they had availed themselves.

10. The expedition projected at Naples against Sicily is of a very formidable nature, and intended to attack the eastern and southern sides of the island, which I apprehend is quite unprepared to resist them; and the Neapolitans will make their descent with all the additional animosity which has been created by the recent invasion of Calabria by the Sicilians.

No. 257.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord, Admiralty, August 19, 1848.
 I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a duplicate letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, dated the 1st instant, with the correspondence therein inclosed respecting the British flag having been used by the Neapolitan war-steamer "Stromboli," to enable her to capture certain Sicilian vessels, and other points under discussion with the Neapolitan Government.

I have, &c.
 H. G. WARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 257.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, "Hibernia," Castellamare, August 1, 1848.
 MY letter of the 30th ultimo, sent by a Sardinian packet *via* Marseilles, will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of the nature of our communications with the Neapolitan Government to the afternoon of that day.

2. In the course of the evening the Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed a letter to me, of which a copy was previously sent to Lord Napier; and as it was in a conciliatory tone I requested his Lordship to reply to it in a corresponding feeling without waiting for the delivery of the original to myself.

I was in consequence early on the following morning visited by the senior officer of the Neapolitan ships in commission accompanied by the commander of the steam-vessel "Stromboli," to explain the circumstances under which the two vessels with the Sicilian troops on board were captured off Corfu on the 11th of July.

3. Copies of the whole of the correspondence which has passed, including a letter to the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands respecting the position of the Sicilian vessels when seized, and instructions to Captains the Honourable Frederick Pelham and Robb, to prevent the improper use of the

English colours, are herewith inclosed for their Lordships' information agreeably to the accompanying schedule; and as the principal causes of our complaints were removed by the Prince Cariati's letter I lost no time after the receipt of it in exchanging the customary national salutes and in joining with the whole squadron in firing one at noon in celebration of the Queen's birth or name day, and attended at Court with the captains of the squadron to offer our homage to Her Majesty on the occasion: thus all so far proceeded satisfactorily; and as I had reason to believe our presence in such force before Naples caused some uneasiness to the Neapolitan Government, Her Majesty's ships were this day removed to Castellamare.

4. Their Lordships will perceive by the correspondence that the points on which we were at issue are all adjusted with the exception of ascertaining the precise position and distance from Corfu at which the Sicilians were captured.

5. As far as we can judge from the loose manner in which the log-book of the Neapolitan steamer is kept, the vessel last taken must have been very near the land. The statement alleged to be made by Colonel Longo, one of the Sicilians, does not bear his signature, and may be true or not.

The Neapolitan officers assert they were not in the Corfu waters, while I am informed that several of the prisoners who are respectable men, aver that they were taken so close to the land as to be within swimming distance. The advocate for the Sicilian prisoners also states in a memorial sent to Lord Napier, that one of the party actually escaped by swimming on shore.

6. It appears so desirable to have this fact clearly ascertained if possible, that I shall dispatch the "Porcupine" to Corfu for any information which Lord Seaton may be able to afford on the subject, that Her Majesty's Government may be in a position to demand the liberation of the vessels and prisoners should they deem it expedient to do so, in the event of proof being obtained that they were captured within the protective limits of the territory occupied by Her Majesty's forces.

7. No doubt remains that the Sicilian prisoners in confinement at Nisida are treated with great severity. Mr. Fagan, one of the Attachés to the British Legation, found them confined in a damp vault or lower department without bedding or even straw, and fed principally upon horse-beans, black bread, and water. He describes them as suffering from acute rheumatism and dysentery.

His account has been an additional reason for my alluding to their treatment in my letter to his Excellency Prince Cariati, and I hope the steps I have taken throughout this business will be in accordance with their Lordships' wishes.

8. Lord Napier will doubtless send more correct particulars respecting the position of the Sicilian prisoners than I am furnished with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 257.

Correspondence with Prince Cariati.

[See Inclosures 3, 4, 5, 6, in No. 249.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 257.

Lord Napier to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

Sir,

Naples, July 30, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency herewith copy of a note* which I have received from his Excellency the Prince Cariati, acquainting me that the Neapolitan Government will give orders to their officers to abandon the practice of hoisting Her Majesty's ensign for purposes of deception, on condition however that the Sicilians be directed to do the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

* See Inclosure in No. 245.

Inclosure 4 in No. 257.

Lord Napier to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

Sir,

Naples, July 30, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith for your Excellency's information copy of a note* from the Prince of Cariati, by which Her Majesty's Legation are debarred from access to a British subject lately captured by the Neapolitan steam-vessel of war "Stromboli" and since confined for thirteen days under circumstances of great hardship, without being submitted to the usual lawful interrogation preliminary to trial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 257.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Hibernia," Naples, July 31, 1848.

IN reply to your Lordship's letter of the 30th instant, intimating that the Neapolitan Government will give orders to their officers to abandon the practice of hoisting the English colours for purposes of deception on condition that the Sicilians be desired to do the same, it appears to me that this arrangement is just and reasonable, and that it will be desirable to apprise Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo accordingly.

On the subject of your Lordship's communication of the same date I am led to expect by the Prince Cariati's subsequent letter, that the British Maltese subject therein referred to will be put at your Lordship's disposal for interrogation or be set altogether at liberty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 6 in No. 257.

Extract from the Log of the "Stromboli."

Lunedì 10 a Martedì 11 Luglio, 1848.

P. M. Aria chiara e vento fresco dal quarto quadrante. All' 1 si è licenziata la barca, e fatti vela il trincchetto e parrochetto dirrigendo a tutta macchina per E. 5 S. indi fattosi vela il velaccio.

Sino alle ore 2.

L'uffic. di guardo, MARCO CACAO.

Alle 3 si dirige per N.E. 17 E. si tierne la scoperta a rivo sono alle 4.

L'uffic. di guardo, GIUS. SERVILLO.

Rilevazione al tramonto del sole, Capo Colonna per O. 17 S.O., distante miglia 30 circa.

Il primo Piloto, GIUS. SERVILLO.

Nella scoperta due bastimenti di prua a gran distanza. Sino alle 8, si è tenuto la scoperta a riva e diretto come sopra.

L'uffic. di guardo, LUIGI FARINA.

A. M. Aria chiara, e vento regolare dal quarto quadrante; si sono serrate le vele essendo quasi calma.

Al far del giorno a circa 20 miglia al S. O. dell' Isola di Fano si è scoperto per Est un brigantino che diriggeva per Corfù e si è diretto per lei affin di riconoscerlo.

Sono alle 4.

L'uffic. di guardo, CARLO PUCCI.

* See Inclosure 2 in No. 247.

Alle 5 giunto vicino si è conosciuto essere il sudetto brigantino quel istesso discrittoci dal Paraozello e dal Generale Nunziante, carico di gente armata, per lo che battendosi la Generale ci siamo mascherati coo alzare la bandiera Inglese, alla quale ha corrisposto inolzando la sua Siciliana.

L'uffie. di guardo, MARCO CACAIÒ.

Veouti a portata di cannone mi smascherai assicurando la nostra con un colpo di cannone a polvere chiamandolo all'ubbidienza, ma tardò nell'ubbidirmi altro gli tirai a palla, puotando a non colpilo. Là per là ammaino la bandiera e le vele, mise la lancia in mare che venne al mio bordo col Capitano Salvatore Aoetta di questo brigantino, chiamato "Gesù e Maria," seco menando il capo del drappello Ignazio Ribotta, che feci subito salire a bordo per assicurarmene mettendolo ai ceppi. Ordioai al Capitano d'immediatamente restituirmi al suo bordo e di riunire io mio nome quante armi e munizioni avesse, e di chiamare tutti i capi della truppa e ritornare da me.

Tutto fù eseguito, ma molte armi furono gittate in mare ed altra cata al lancia al mio bordo mi presi le armi, e con ferri mi assicurai di Giacomo Loogo, Mariano Delafancia, Errico Fardella, Francesco Landi, Francesco Burgio, Ignazia Rivoli, Francesco Anghera, Ercole Scalia, Salvatore Calvino, Mariano Fiorentino, Stefano di Benedetto, Giuseppe Borgia, Luigi Laozerotti, Giuseppe Algheria, e Danato Ruscio, e numero 52 non della stessa classe furono assicurati legati per mancanza di ferri mani e piedi, mettendoli a basso la stiva con scotincella a vista. Questa operazione eseguendosi già mia cognizione era che mancasero affatto di viveri ed acqua tutti quelli avventurieri, mandai loro cantaio 1 e rotoli 64 biscotto, rotoli 14, 20 once di formaggio, carafi 84 di vino, e quattro quartaroli d'acqua.

Alle 8 manovrai per prendere il brigantino a rimorchio lo che fatto diedi caccia ad un trabacolo già a nostra vista per S.E.S. a circa otto miglia che dirigeva anche per Corfù che sospettai come trovai essere carico di compagni dei già arrestate.

Giunto a tiro di cannone lo chiamai all'ubbidienza con un colpo a polvere, e là per là si mise alla relinga per aspettarmi. Veouto a vicinanza da potermene impadronire mi mandò la laocia col Padrone Vincenzo Anardi, di quel legno che si chiama "St. Maria di Porto Salvo." A costui imposi d'immediatamente vocare pel suo bordo, e di manovrare per presto mettersi a rimorchio del brigantino da me rimorchiato e per agevolarlo gli mandai una delle mie lance col guardiano Pesante, che non poco affrettò quella operazione. Nulla curandomi di disarmarlo per non perder tempo. Questa operazione eseguendosi mandai anche al trabacolo cantaio 179 biscotto, vino carafi 86½, formaggio rotoli 15½, e quattro quartaroli d'acqua.

Alle 11½ essendo tutto in ordine feci rotta per Capo Spartivento a tutta macchina.

Relevazione a mezzodì.

L'Isola Fano N.O. ½ N., distante mia 18 circa.

Il Comandante, SALAZAR.

Il primo piloto, GIUS. SERVILLO.

Nelle 24 ore avia e vento come sopra.

Copy of an Extract purporting to be copied from the log of the brigantine captured by the Neapolitan steam-vessel "Stromboli" off Corfu on the 11th July, 1848.

Giorno 11 Luglio, 1848.

A. M.—Aria chiara e poco vento dal S.O. Si navigava per E.N.E. Al sorgere del sole eravamo distanti 20 miglia circa dell'estremità dell'Isola Corfù ci raggiunsi il vapore e tirando due tiri di cannone a vento, noi subito battassimo la lancia io mare e siamo andate al buon ordine, ed ha voluto tutta l'armatura e i superiori, la donna che avevamo a bordo, e provvedendoci di pane, acqua, vino, e tutto che noi avevamo tutto terminato.

Fatta questa operazione, ci ha rimorchiato e messo in rotta. Tutta l'operazione è stata fatta nello spazio di ore 5½.

Dal giorno 11 alle ore 4½ A. M., che siamo stati presi, fino al giorno 13 alle ore 6 A. M., abbiamo giunt' in Reggio, ed alle 5 P. M., ci sono sbarcati. Non altro dal giorno 13 fino al giorno 17 A. M., siamo stati sotto l'ordine dell'Ammiraglio, e alle ore 11 siamo stati liberati.

(Translation.)

Monday 10, to Tuesday, July 11, 1848.

P. M.—Clear weather and fresh breezes from S.W. At 1 o'clock cleared the vessel and made sail, foresail, and fore-topsail—steaming with full power. E. 5 S., set the fore-topgallant sail.

Up to 2 o'clock.

The officer of the guard, MARCO CACAILO.

At 3 steered N.E. 17 E. Saw land up to 4 o'clock.

The officer of the guard, GIUSEPPE SERVILLO.

Bearings at sunset. Cape Colonna, W. 17 S.W., distant about 30 miles.

The chief pilot, GIUSEPPE SERVILLO.

Saw two vessels of war a great way off. Saw the land up to 8 o'clock. Steering as above.

The officer of the guard, LUIGI FARINA.

A. M.—Clear weather and moderate wind from S.W. Furled sails, being nearly calm.

At break of day about 20 miles S.W. of the Island of Fano, saw to the eastward a brigantine steering for Corfu. Steered for her to reconnoitre.

Up to 4 o'clock.

The officer of the guard, CARLO PUCCI.

At 5 o'clock, being near, knew the above-named brigantine to be the one which was described by Paranzello and by the General Nunziante to be full of armed men, on which, beating to quarters, we were disguised by hoisting the English colours, which she returned by hoisting hers, Sicilian.

The officer of the guard, MARCO CACAILO.

Arriving within cannon-shot I unmasked, confirmed my own flag with a blank gun hailing her to submit, but she delayed obeying me. I fired another with shot, pointing so as not to strike her; then she lowered her flag and sails, put her boat in the water which came on board my ship with Captain Salvatore Anetta of this brig, which was called "Gesù e Maria," bringing with him the chief of the band, Ignazio Ribotta, whom I immediately took on board to secure him, putting him in irons. I ordered the captain immediately to return to his ship and to collect in my name whatever arms and ammunition he had, to call together the leaders of the band and to return to me.

All was accomplished, but many arms were flung into the sea, and the launch being got alongside of my ship I took the arms and secured with irons Giacomo Longo, &c., &c. (Here follow the names of the chief prisoners, being fourteen more in number,) and fifty-two in number not of the first class were secured by being bound hand and foot for want of irons, putting them in the hold with a sentinel in sight.

This operation being over, I had already been informed that all these adventurers were completely in want of provisions and water. I ordered them 1 cantajo and 64 rotoli of biscuit, 14 rotoli and 20 ounces of cheese, 84 caraffi of wine, and 4 quartaroli of water.

At 8 steamed to take the brigantine in tow, which being done I gave chase to a trabacolo already in sight to the E.S.E. about eight miles, steering also for Corfu, which I suspected as I afterwards found out to be full of the companions of those already seized. Arrived within gun-shot I summoned her to submit with a blank gun, and then she hove-to to wait for me.

Being close enough to take possession I ordered the launch with the Padrone Vincenzo Anardi of that ship, which was called "Santa Maria di Porto Salvo," whom I made immediately to hail his vessel and manœuvre to be taken in tow of the brigantine towed by me, and as she was light I ordered one of my boats with a strong guard which greatly accelerated this operation, taking no care to disarm her so as not to lose time.

This being done I ordered the trabacolo also 179 cantajo of biscuit, 86½ caraffi of wine, 15½ rotoli of cheese, and 4 quartaroli of water.

At 11:30 all being arranged I started for Cape Spartivento at full speed.
Bearings at noon.

The Island of Fano N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N., distant about 18 miles.

The chief pilot, GIUSEPPE SERVILLO.

During the 24 hours the wind and weather as above.

July 11, 1848.

A. M. Clear weather and light breeze S.W., steering E.N.E.

At sunrise we were distant 20* miles nearly from the extremity of the Island of Corfu; a steamer joined us and firing two guns to windward we immediately put the launch into the water and went in an orderly manner, and all the crew and the superior officers, the woman we had, on board the ship, and providing us with bread, water, wine, and all that we had; all being finished they took us in tow and proceeded.

All the operation was done in about five and a-half hours.

From the 11th at half-past 4 A.M. when we were taken up, to the 13th at 6 A. M., we arrived in Reggio, and at 5 P. M. we were landed.

Not otherwise than from the 13th to the 17th A. M., we were under the orders of the Admiral, and at 11 we were liberated.

Inclosure 7 in No. 257.

Memorial of the Sicilian Prisoners.

[See Inclosure in No. 248.]

Inclosure 8 in No. 257.

*Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to the Lord High Commissioner of the
Ionian Islands.*

My Lord,

"Hibernia, Naples, July 30, 1848.

I DO myself the honour of inclosing for your Lordship's information a copy and translation of the statement made by the officer commanding the Neapolitan steamer "Stromboli," of the circumstances under which two vessels having on board an armed force of about 650 Sicilians, were captured in their endeavour to reach Corfu from the late expedition in Calabria.

Your Lordship will observe that it is admitted that the British flag was deceptively used to entrap these vessels, and it is asserted by some, that not only was the first shot fired on the Sicilians while the British colours were displayed, but that the capture was made so close to Corfu as to involve a question of Her Majesty's territory having been thereby violated.

The Neapolitan Government has refused Lord Napier access for the purpose of obtaining the necessary information, not only to the Sicilian prisoners in the presence of Neapolitan officers, but to an English subject, a Maltese, who was taken with them and who has been kept several days under arrest for trial, without any communication respecting him being made to Lord Napier, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, by the Neapolitan Government.

I am therefore induced to request that your Lordship will have the goodness to inform me whether the capture of the two vessels above referred to by the "Stromboli" was observed from Corfu, if so at what distance from the shore it occurred; and whether your Lordship has reason to think that the Neapolitan steamer in any way infringed the neutrality of Her Majesty's territory, or the protection which the British possessions always afford to subjects of foreign Powers in amity who seek shelter from violence for political acts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

* The 20 in the original seems to have been altered since first written.

Inclosure 9 in No. 257.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Captain Pelham.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Castellamare, August 1, 1848.

HAVING called upon the Neapolitan Government, through the medium of Lord Napier, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, to abandon the practice of using the English colours in their steam and other vessels for purposes of deception, I inclose herewith for your information, the extract of a letter which I have received in answer to this demand; and I desire you will communicate with Her Majesty's Consul in order that the Provisional Government at Palermo may be required to issue orders that Sicilian vessels conform to this principle, and that you adopt any measures in your power to enforce compliance, should you see it departed from on either side.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Extract.

"The King's Government, in accordance with the wishes of Admiral Parker, and so as not to expose Her Britannic Majesty's ships to the injuries which they might possibly suffer, has given orders that the ships of the King's navy shall no longer make use of the British colours, demanding however on the just ground of reciprocity, that the same shall be required of the Sicilians."

Inclosure 10 in No. 257.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Captain Robb.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Castellamare, August 1, 1848.

HAVING called upon the Neapolitan Government, through the medium of Lord Napier, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, to abandon the practice of using the English colours in their steam and other vessels for purposes of deception, I inclose herewith for your information the extract of a letter which I have received in answer to this demand; and I desire you will communicate with Her Majesty's Consul in order that the authorities at Messina may be required to issue orders that Sicilian vessels conform to this principle, and that you adopt any measures in your power to enforce compliance, should you see it departed from on either side.

"The King's Government, in accordance with the wishes of Admiral Parker, and so as not to expose Her Britannic Majesty's ships to the injuries which they might possibly suffer, has given orders that the ships of the King's navy shall no longer make use of the British colours, demanding however on the just ground of reciprocity that the same shall be required of the Sicilians."

I further inclose for your information copies of depositions which have been forwarded to me by Lord Napier, respecting the case of the musket-shot which was fired into the English brig "Edward Barnett" from Fort St. Salvatore at Messina on the 12th of June last; but as his Excellency Prince Cariatì has subsequently expressed regret for that occurrence in the following terms, extracted and translated from his letter to me of the 30th ultimo, I consider under all the circumstances of the case that this atonement will suffice:

"From the reports received it does not seem probable that a musket-shot fired from the Fort of St. Salvatore at Messina could have reached the brig 'Edward Barnett.' Should it however have so happened the Royal Government would be beyond measure pained, never having ceased to entertain for the flag of Her Britannic Majesty the respect due to it from a friendly Government.

"Prince Cariatì flatters himself that these explanations will suffice to remove every doubt that may have arisen in the mind of his Excellency Admiral Sir William Parker as to the justice and loyalty which the Royal Government has scrupulously observed in all its relations towards that of Great Britain, and to manifest its constant and lively desire of maintaining and strengthening the

intimate bonds of friendship and good harmony existing for so many years between the two Governments."

The "Porcupine" is dispatched to Corfu for the purpose of ascertaining if possible the exact distance from the island at which the brigantine and trabacolo with the Sicilians proceeding from Calabria were captured on the 11th ultimo.

Lieutenant Roberts will be directed to call at Messina on his return, and if you are able also to obtain any information on the point in question I shall be glad to receive it by that opportunity, as also any remark which it may be desirable to record in the British Legation at Naples in refutation of the Neapolitan statements with regard to the musket-shot fired at the "Edward Barnett."

The inclosures are to be returned when perused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 258.

Lord Eddisbury to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 22, 1848.

WITH reference to the correspondence transmitted in your letter of the 19th with respect to the use of the British flag by the Neapolitan steamer "Stromboli" to enable her to capture two Sicilian vessels, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that it is his Lordship's opinion that if it should turn out upon inquiry and investigation, that either one or both of these two vessels were taken within three miles of the coast of Corfu, the Neapolitan Government should be required to give up immediately to Sir William Parker such vessels and the persons captured therein, in order that they may be sent back to Sicily.

A communication to this effect will be made to Lord Napier, who will be instructed to make the demand if the case in which it ought to be made shall have arisen.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDDISBURY.

No. 259.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 23.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 14, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, containing certain communications from the Lord High Commissioner in the Ionian Islands, from which it is apparent that the Sicilian vessels lately captured by the Neapolitan steam sloop of war "Stromboli" were not taken in Ionian waters.

I shall consequently consider the correspondence with the Government of Naples on this subject to be closed, unless I be directed by your Lordship to move further in the matter.

With regard to the condition of the Sicilian prisoners I fear that there is still much to complain of, but the Chamber of Deputies have appointed a Committee to examine into their treatment, which may be followed by a favourable result.

Dionisio Cavallare, the Ionian British subject arrested in company with the Sicilian adventurers, is now lodged on board Her Majesty's steamer "Bulldog."

It certainly formed no part of Sir William Parker's wishes or of my own to shield a criminal from the just consequences of his guilt, but Dionisio Cavallare having been kept in confinement twenty-five days without examination or trial and having suffered some hardships, I did not think it becoming that a British subject should remain longer in such a position; and Sir William Parker

being of the same opinion I have accepted the offer of the Neapolitan Government to commit him to the custody of Her Majesty's squadron. I believe he will not be absolutely released without a reference to the Governor of Malta and Lord Seaton respecting his previous character and proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 259.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Hibernia, Castellamare, August 12, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information copies of a letter and its inclosures which I have received from his Excellency Lord Seaton, the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, relative to the capture by the Neapolitan steam-vessel "Stromboli" of the two vessels with Sicilian refugees on board on the 11th ultimo, by which it appears that their seizure took place about eight miles distant from the western coast of that island, and cannot consequently be considered as a violation of the territory under the protection of Her Majesty's forces; but as the British flag was used as a decoy on the occasion, I flatter myself that the Neapolitan Government will realize the hopes given in answer to your Lordship's intercession in the prisoners' behalf that they should be well treated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 259.

Lord Seaton to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

Sir,

Corfu, August 8, 1848.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatches of the 30th and 31st of July, and inclosures upon the subject of the capture by a steam-ship of the King of Naples of two Neapolitan vessels, on board of which were embarked refugees from Calabria and Sicily on their route to Corfu, I have the honour to acquaint you that the occurrence in question took place according to the accompanying statement from Lieutenant-Colonel England of the Royal Artillery, and the Director-General of the Police, about eight miles distant from the western coast of this island on the 11th of July.

Thirteen refugees from Calabria arrived at this port on the 10th in a Neapolitan vessel, having effected their escape from Cotrone after the Royal troops had defeated the insurgents near Cantazaro. Some of these individuals were landed proprietors residing near Pizzo and Monteleone, and were leaders of the insurrectionary movements in Calabria, and I imagine must have embarked at Cotrone a short time before the Sicilians to whom you advert fled from that neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SEATON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 259.

Deposition of Colonel England.

AT Paleocastrizza, about the 11th July, at about 10 o'clock A.M., my children called my attention to some vessels in the offing which they supposed to be in distress, as they had heard guns fired. I saw a steamer closing two others, having the appearance of a small sailing vessel and a fishing boat, they

were 8 or 10 miles S. W. of Paleocastrizza, steering nearly south. Soon after the steamer changed her course, and took a direction north, accompanied by the others. I could not distinguish the colours.

Citadel, Corfu, August 7, 1848.

(Signed) P. V. ENGLAND,
Lieutenant-Colonel Royal Artillery.

Inclosure 4 in No 259.

Report of the Director of Police of Corfu.

Sir,

General Police Office, Corfu, August 8, 1848.

HAVING made every possible inquiry relative to the capture on the 11th July of the two vessels on board of which the Sicilians were embarked, I beg to submit the result of my researches for the information of his Excellency the Lord High Commissioner.

Lieutenant-Colonel England, commanding the Royal Artillery, was at Paleocastrizza on the day in question, and was called by his children to see two vessels supposed by them to be in distress, as they had heard the report of guns.

He states "I saw a steamer closing two small vessels, they were 8 or 10 miles from the shore, bearing about south-west, and appeared to be steering nearly south. Soon after the steamer changed her course and took a north direction, accompanied by the others which she appeared to have in tow; I could not distinguish the colours.

Lieutenant G. Merenda, of the Packet Establishment, states: "about a month ago I went to Paleocastrizza. On the road, as I passed the 13th milestone where the sea is first visible, I saw at about 8 or 10 miles' distant two vessels in a calm. I descended to the shore of Paleocastrizza, from whence I sent a fisherman of the place to the convent to bring water. During his absence we heard a noise like the report of a cannon. When the fisherman returned he said that an English steamer had fired a gun and taken two vessels away to the south-westward. I told him that it could not have been an English steamer, but a vessel of some other nation, to which he further replied that the corporal or sergeant stationed there told him that she was an English steamer, having seen her colours with his spy-glass."

A monk of the name of Sophronio belonging to the Convent of Myrtiotissa, distant by sea from Paleocastrizza about four miles, deposes that on the 11th July last, about 2 P. M., he saw a steamer chase two vessels one after another: the steamer which was more than six miles distant from the shore obliged the two vessels to accompany her.

Antonio Zapoehiriaca di Paolo deposes that he was at Peleca on the 11th July, and that about 11 o'clock A.M. he saw a steamer and two vessels from six to eight miles from the shore.

Ramasi Levatino of Anastasi was near the village of Voto on the morning of the 11th July. He saw at a very great distance from the shore a steamer and two vessels and heard the report of two guns; it was very early in the morning.

All these evidences concur in stating that they never heard of any foreigner swimming on shore, nor was it possible in their opinion on account of the distance.

Several other persons were examined and their statements agree in substance with the depositions which I now transmit.

(Signed) W. H. LAWRENCE, *Director-General.*

No. 260.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 24, 1848.

WITH reference to the correspondence which has passed with respect to the use of the British flag by the Neapolitan steamer "Stromboli" for the purpose capturing two Sicilian vessels, I have to instruct your Lordship if it should turn

out that either or both of these two vessels were taken within three miles of the coast of Corfu, to require the Neapolitan Government to give up those vessels to Sir William Parker in order that they may be sent back to Sicily.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 261.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

(Extract.)

Admiralty, August 24, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker dated the 14th instant, containing intelligence respecting the state of affairs at Messina.

Inclosure 1 in No. 261.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Hibernia," Castellamare, August 14, 1848.

I INCLOSE Captain Robb's latest report of proceedings in the vicinity of Messina. The intended expedition from Naples to Sicily continues in abeyance.

Inclosure 2 in No. 261.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

Sir,

"Gladiator," Messina, August 10, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with the memoranda by the "Porcupine," which arrived here on the 5th instant and sailed immediately for Corfu. The news of the embarkation of troops at Naples and supposed to be destined for Sicily, has raised the enthusiasm of all classes of the Sicilians and they appear to have done more for the defence of the town by strengthening their batteries, making barricades, cutting trenches and drilling their troops, than they have ever done since the commencement of the Revolution.

An occasional firing has taken place from the Terra Nova and the citadel daily, but in spite of this the Sicilians are said to have got two more guns out of the arsenal.

On the 6th instant a Neapolitan steamer arrived at Reggio with a brig in tow, a cannonade was kept up from the Faro on her passing the Strait, which was returned from the Calabrian shore. A proclamation was made by the Commissary of the Executive Power here, copies of which I inclose.

On the 7th I proceeded in this ship to Catania, in consequence of the request of the British Consul there, and took copies of the proclamation to that place. All was quiet at Catania, but they are without the means of defence, having very little powder and their guns not at all qualified to hold out long; however the people are animated with the best feelings and have proceeded to build barricades, make ambushes, destroy the roads, so as to impede and harass the Neapolitans if they should land there. A deputation came on board to express their gratitude to England for her protection and for the sympathy that had been shown to them. It was generally believed both at Catania and Syracuse, that England and France would settle their differences with Naples, but I gave them fully to understand that no interference whatever between them would take place.

On the following day I returned to this anchorage, where the "Psyche" still remains, having satisfied the Consul and the people at Catania that protec-

tion would be afforded to British property, and to the lives and liberty of those who were likely to be compromised for their political opinions.

There has been some firing to-day from the citadel on the arsenal in consequence of the attempt of the Sicilians to possess themselves of the guns there.

At 10 P.M. the "Porcupine" arrived from Corfu too late to receive pratique to-morrow on her arrival at Naples, and she will sail at daylight in consequence.

A Neapolitan steamer was fired at to-day on passing through the Faro, and arrived at Reggio, where there are now two frigates, four steamers, and some boats which appear to be used for conveying provisions to the citadel.

The Commissary of the Executive Power has just informed me that three steam-vessels with twelve or fourteen gun-boats are in sight from the Faro, that the city is in consequence under arms and well prepared to receive them if they should land, and detachments have been sent along the shore from the Faro as far as Scaletta.

I beg to inclose herewith a letter from Her Majesty's Consul here relative to the shot fired at the "Edward Barnett" from Fort St. Salvatore, and the correspondence you forwarded by the "Porcupine" for perusal.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ROBB.

No. 262.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord, *Admiralty, August 24, 1848.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, dated the 14th instant, with its inclosures in original, from which it appears that the two Sicilian vessels taken by the Neapolitan war-steamer "Stromboli" were at the time of their capture from eight to ten miles' distant from Corfu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure in No. 262.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *"Hibernia," Castellamare, August 14, 1848.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 1st instant I request you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the "Porcupine" rejoined me from Corfu on the 12th instant, with answers from Lord Seaton, of which the inclosed are copies,* stating that the two vessels with the Sicilian troops on board returning from Calabria, were captured on the 11th ultimo from eight to ten miles' distant from Corfu, which completely refutes the assertions of many of the Sicilian prisoners that they were seized within swimming distance of that island, and the impression that the territory protected by Her Majesty's forces had thereby been violated.

The Ionian subject who was taken in one of the vessels was voluntarily given up by the Neapolitan Government on the 11th instant and received on board the "Bulldog;" but as his evidence is now positively contradicted I shall send him to Corfu or Malta by the first opportunity, to be set at liberty.

The condition of the Sicilian prisoners at Nisida and Naples has I believe been improved by the intercession of Lord Napier and myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

* See Inclosures 2, 3, and 4 in No. 263.

No. 263.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 2.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 24, 1848.

THE English newspapers having very generally reported that the projected expedition to Sicily had been hindered by the presence of Her Majesty's squadron, it may not be superfluous to submit to your Lordship that there has been nothing whatever in the attitude or distribution of Sir William Parker's force to countenance such a presumption. Her Majesty's squadron to the number of ten vessels of war anchored in front of the city on the 29th instant, thus departing from the usual course pursued by foreign vessels of war, for reasons stated previously to your Lordship, but they were not drawn up in line of battle nor marshalled in any premeditated or threatening order.

At Court on the 30th the Vice-Admiral informed the Minister of Marine of his intention to repair with the whole squadron to Castellamare, the causes of discontent and remonstrance having been removed, and he repeated this assurance to the King in person; and accordingly the squadron sailed for that anchorage on the 1st instant, leaving a single steam-vessel at Naples. For sixteen days the ships lay at Castellamare at a distance of fifteen miles from the capital, leaving the bay entirely open to the Neapolitan flotilla of steam-vessels and gun-boats, which have been exercising and manœuvring ever since in the greatest security.

There is therefore not only no substantial ground but actually no pretext in external appearances, however slight or hollow, for asserting that the departure of the Neapolitan expedition has been impeded by Sir William Parker.

General Filangieri told the Russian Minister the real cause of the delay; he said, "We do not attack Sicily because we cannot at present do so with certainty of success." The uncertainty is based on want of funds to support the war, and the want of discipline in the army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 264.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 2.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 24, 1848.

VARIOUS rumours of disorders and changes of Government in Sicily have been lately circulated at Naples, perhaps studiously by the Court party, and the opportunities of correspondence being neither frequent nor secure, it is not easy to ascertain the truth.

In order that Her Majesty's Government may obtain intelligence of the real course of events, Sir William Parker dispatched Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Porcupine" to Palermo on the 21st instant, and I availed myself of that opportunity to address to Her Majesty's Consul the inclosed instruction in which I have taken the liberty of suggesting to M. Stabile the expediency of abstaining from all public demonstration of opinion relative to the events which have lately occurred in Italy, for I feared that on imperfect information the Parliament might have been induced to pass declarations or resolutions which they might afterwards have cause to regret with respect to questions which now so deeply agitate the popular party in the Peninsula.

By the last accounts from Messina, there had been some exchange of firing between the trenches and the forts, but the Sicilians had succeeded in recovering four pieces of cannon from the ruins of the arsenal which lie under the guns of the citadel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 264.

Lord Napier to Consul Goodwin.

(Extract.)

Naples, August 21, 1848.

I REGRET that the prolonged suspension of communication with Palermo has prevented my conveying to M. Stabile through your channel at an earlier date, my acknowledgments for his letter of the 9th instant, and submitting to him in reply an explanation of the course which Her Majesty's Legation has followed during the period subsequent to the election of the Duke of Genoa to the Throne of Sicily.

The subjects which have naturally attracted in the greatest degree the attention of the Sicilian Government and my own, have been:

The capture and treatment of the Sicilian force lately employed in the revolt of Calabria; and the preparation of an expedition at this port for the invasion of Sicily.

With respect to the first you will have the goodness to reiterate to M. Stabile my assurance that no means have been left untried by Sir William Parker and myself to ascertain with the greatest exactness the circumstances under which the Sicilian vessels surrendered off the coast of Corfu to the Neapolitan steam-vessel "*Stromboli*," and that after receiving indirectly from the prisoners and in person from a British subject, unfortunately concerned in the affair, certain accounts not very specific or altogether consistent and trustworthy, the Vice-Admiral dispatched a steam-vessel expressly to Corfu to procure the depositions of persons who might have been witnesses of the transaction from the land.

In answer to the inquiries of Sir William Parker, his Excellency Lord Seaton forwarded the evidence elicited from several respectable persons, by which it seemed proved to the satisfaction of the Vice-Admiral, that the Sicilian vessels were seized at the distance of six or eight miles from the coast, and that they were thus beyond the maritime jurisdiction of the British authority.

It has consequently not been in my power to demand the liberation of the prisoners who would appear to have been lawfully captured though in some measure through an artifice disgraceful I think to those who used it, but sanctioned by the example of other nations and the usages of belligerents at sea. I have not been deterred however from exerting all my influence to obtain some amelioration in the treatment of the Sicilian captives, in which the Representative of the French Republic was not less active; and the Neapolitan Chamber of Deputies having manifested their marked interest in the matter, I have reason to believe that a sensible mitigation of the hardships at first endured by the Sicilians has been effected.

In regard to the expedition which has been fitted out apparently to attack the Kingdom of Sicily, I think M. Stabile must be convinced that I could not interfere to arrest its departure without direct instructions to that effect from Her Majesty's Government. My own unauthorized and unsupported opposition would have been, under the circumstances, both unwarrantable and ineffectual. The prosecution of the war has been hitherto impeded by the poverty and the hesitation of the Neapolitan Government, which still nourishes a hope that in consequence of the disasters which have befallen the House of Savoy some opening may be afforded for the reconciliation of the two countries, either under King Ferdinand himself, or under one of his sons as independent Sovereign of Sicily.

I cannot at present state what may be the course adopted by Her Majesty's Government, but I know from private sources that I am to receive instructions for my guidance of which I am in momentary expectation; and the British Cabinet have officially declared that their mediation will be employed to settle the affairs of Italy in conjunction with that of France, and from such mediation the consideration of the future Government of Sicily can scarcely be excluded.

You will have the goodness to read this despatch to the President of the Kingdom and to M. Stabile.

No. 265.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 2.)

(Extract.)

Naples, August 24, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith two letters from Marquis Torreaarsa, who has succeeded M. Stabile in the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs at Palermo.

The whole of the Administration formed in March last have given in their resignation. The Minister of War and the Minister of the Interior in the old Cabinet have however accepted office in the new Ministry. M. Stabile has been raised with immense acclamation to the Presidency of the Chamber of Deputies, and the new Government propose to pursue the same course as their predecessors.

I am forced to send your Lordship the present communications in original owing to the pressure of time, and to defer the expedition of Mr. Goodwin's despatches until the next opportunity.

Inclosure 1 in No. 265.

*The Marquis Torreaarsa to Lord Napier.**Palermo, 15 Agosto, 1848.*

UNA delle tante naturali oscillazioni alle quali va soggetto uno Stato non uso ancora alle abitudini Costituzionali e al tempo stesso con senso del più puro patriottismo, è un desiderio vivissimo che per meri motivi personali non si desse opportunità a ogni benchè minima scissura, sono state le ragioni che hanno indotto il nostro Ministero che datava dal 27 Marzo a ritirarsi dagli affari.

A renderle più certe le ragioni di questo cambiamento debbo assicurarla che io e i colleghi de' quali si è ricomposto il nuovo Ministero siamo stati e siamo ancora i più intimi amici de' passati Ministeri, e sostenitori della politica da essi seguita per la sincera convinzione di essere la più saggia e la più utile alle presente condizioni della Sicilia. Ella sa per altro che qui non sono stati partiti nè opposizioni di sorta sino al presente, non potendo dirsi tale una esilissima frazione dalle Camere sospinta più che da altro da personali motivi, ed essendo per certo che il buon senso generale di tutte le popolazioni della Sicilia, e l'avveduta moderazione del Parlamento e di quanti hanno figurato nelle vicende della Rivoluzione Siciliana si sono sempre manifestati, e si mostrano ancora perfettamente concordi nel senso degli interessi veri e della indipendenza della Sicilia e soddisfatti della politica più utile al paese quale è quella appunto avviata sì bene dal cessato Ministero.

E siffatti argomenti si convalidano bene da un fatto che sembrerebbe contraddittorio nella storia parlamentaria; quello cioè che la Camera de' Comuni nel momento che ritiravasi il Ministero del 27 Marzo, volle dargli la prova più lusinghiera della stima e della riconoscenza della rappresentanza Siciliana per gli importanti servizi resi alla patria, e l'attestato più luminoso ad un tempo della fiducia e della adesione della Camera medesima alla politica seguita dal Ministero, chiamando il mio ottimo predecessore Signor Mariano Stabile alla Presidenza della Camera, con una maggioranza che potria quasi dirsi voto ad acclamazione, e ciò nel giorno medesimo 13 corrente in che faceasi nota la composizione del nuovo Ministero di che ha qui in piedi la lista.

Non avendo in Napoli alcun Rappresentante di questo Governo, ho stimato mio debito dare a lei direttamente conoscenza di un tal fatto, intorno al quale dietro gli schiarimenti di sopra, sembrerebbe superfluo l'aggiungere che ella pel cambiamento avvisato non dovrà considerare mutata per nulla nè la condizione nè la politica di questo Governo, la quale come io medesimo ho avuto già l'onore di annunziare alle Camere, non patirà alcuna innovazione. E la prego del favore di darne anco notizia al Governo di Sua Maestà Britannica, e di voler continuare a questo Ministero i buoni uffici la gentilezza e la simpatia da lei meritamente accordata a quello del Signor Stabile.

E mio debito in ultimo confermarle in tutti i suoi particolari la lettera del 9 Agosto corrente scrittale dal mio predecessore, e rinnovarle le preghiere sul conto de' prigionieri Siciliani, dalle lettere de' quali ci si assicura di essere inumanamente trattati e privi anco de' sussidi che da qui e da Napoli stesso si voglia loro procurare.

Gradisca intanto, &c.

MARCHESE DI TORREARSA,
Ministro degli Affari Esteri e del Commercio.

Nuevo Ministero.

Signor Filippo Cordova	- - - -	Finanze.
Signor Emmanuele Viola	- - - -	Culto e Giustizia.
Signor Giuseppe La Farina	- - - -	Istruzione e Lavori Pubblici.
		Interna e Sicurezza (firma La Farina)
Signor Marchese Torreaarsa	- - - -	Affari Esteri e Commercio.
Signor Maresciallo Giuseppe Paterno	- - - -	Guerra e Marina.

(Translation.)

Palermo, August 15, 1848.

ONE of the many natural oscillations which affect a State not yet accustomed to Constitutional habits, and actuated at the same time by a sense of the purest patriotism, and a strong desire to allow no occasion for the smallest schism on mere personal motives, have been the reasons which induced our Ministry of the 27th of March to give in their resignation.

To give you certain assurance of the reasons of this change, I must declare to you that myself and my colleagues who compose the present Ministry have been and still are the most intimate friends of the ex-Ministers, and that we are supporters of the line of policy followed by them, from the sincere conviction that it is the wisest and the most suitable to the present condition of Sicily. You are moreover aware that until the present there have been no parties nor any opposition, for the name cannot be given to a very trifling body in the Chambers, urged on more by personal motives than anything else, and it is very certain that the general good sense of all the population of Sicily has been manifested throughout, as well as the obvious moderation of the Parliament, and of all those who have figured in the events of the Sicilian Revolution; they show themselves in perfect unison upon the true interest and independence of Sicily, and satisfied by the line of policy most advantageous to the country, which is just that followed so well by the late Ministry.

And such arguments are fully corroborated by a fact which may seem contradictory in parliamentary history, that the Chamber of Commons, when the Ministry of the 27th of March retired, resolved to bestow on them the most flattering proof of the esteem and gratitude felt by the Sicilian representative body for the important services rendered to the country, and at the same time the clearest testimony of the confidence and adhesion of the same Chamber to the policy followed by the Ministry, by calling my excellent predecessor, Signor Mariano Stabile, to the Presidency of the Chamber, by a majority which might be almost called a vote by acclamation; and that, too, the same day, the 13th instant, on which the composition of the new Ministry was made known, as given in the list below.

There being no Representative of this Government in Naples, I have thought it my duty to give you direct information of this fact, relative to which, after the explanations above, it may seem superfluous to add, that you are not to consider the change announced as having in any way altered the condition or the policy of this Government, which, as I have already had the honour to announce to the Chambers, will not suffer the smallest innovation. I will also ask the favour of your giving notice of the same to the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, and will request you to continue to this Ministry the good offices, the attentions, and the kindness deservedly granted by you to that of Signor Stabile.

Finally, I have to confirm to you in all its particulars the letter of the 9th August instant, written to you by my predecessor, and to repeat the prayers on

behalf of the Sicilian prisoners, by whose letters we are assured that they are barbarously treated, and also deprived of the succours which here and even at Naples it is wished to procure them.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) MARCHESA DI TORREARSA,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Commerce.

New Ministry.

Signor Filippo Cordova	-	-	Finances.
Signor Emmanuele Viola	-	-	Worship and Justice.
Signor Giuseppe La Farina	-	-	Instruction and Public Works.
			Interior and Safety (signed by La Farina.)
Signor Marchese Torrearsa	-	-	Foreign Affairs and Commerce.
Signor Maresciallo Giuseppe Paterno	-	-	War and Marine.

Inclosure 2 in No. 265.

The Marquis Torrearsa to Lord Napier.

Eccellenza,

Palermo, 20 Agosto, 1848.

ACCLUSA ha una mia lettera del 15 corrente colla quale ho avuto l'onore di annunziarle il cambiamento del Ministero.

E ora mio debito farle conoscere che le notizie dei disastri dell' Armata Piemontese pervenutoci il 16 corrente non hanno per nulla alterato nè la posizione nè la condizione delle cose nostre. Il Governo e il Parlamento di Sicilia rimangono fermi sulle risoluzioni già prese e notificate ufficialmente all' Inghilterra e alla Francia e a' varj Governi d'Italia, e ciò sulla ragione che qui non si è mai stimato, nè se ne è fatto in conseguenza alcuna professione nè alle due Grandi Potenze nè ad alcun altro Governo di Italia o fuori, dovere le sorti individuali della Sicilia dipendere menomamente nè da una disfatta, nè da una vittoria del Re di Sardegna. Bene la nostra politica dovea (e lo dovrà sempre nel caso di eventi più fortunati pel resto d'Italia) seguire ed attaccarsi ai generali interessi di tutta la penisola nel senso della Lega che iniziava le riforme degli Stati Italiani e che il Governo Britannico avea così saggiamente favorito. Ma quanto alla individualità e alla indipendenza della Sicilia, non vi era ne dovuta esservi ragione alcuna, sia di politica sia di diplomazia, che ne mettesse in dubbio la esistenza.

E però restando fermi, come col fatto questo Governo, e la iotera Sicilia restano fermissimi su i decreti del nostro Parlamento, e non dubitando per la ragioni che il Governo Britannico e tutto il mondo conosce che noi abbiamo di non dubitare, che il Duca di Genova sia per accettare, se pure al momento in che si scrive la presente non abbia già accettato col fatto la elezione del Parlamento di Sicilia del dì 11 Luglio, 1848, questo Governo non può che esser certo che il Governo di Sua Maestà Britannica, alla simpatia e all' amorevolezza di che ci è stato finora tanto cortese, voglia aggiungere al più presto un importantissimo atto di giustizia, quello cioè del suo riconoscimento ufficiale promessoci così esplicitamente e con tanta generosa e nobile franchezza sulla semplice condizione della scelta di un Principe Italiano già da questo Parlamento eseguita col Decreto suddetto, e regolarmente per mezzo dei nostri rappresentanti accreditati al Governo della Gran Bretagna notificata, e da questo riconosciuta per le istruzioni anticipate al Vice-Ammiraglio Sir William Parker, comandante la squadra di Sua Maestà Britannica nel Mediterraneo, che venendo nel nostro porto e trovando già fatta la elezione del Re in persona di un Principe Italiano onorasse la nostra bandiera col saluto della Flotta di Sua Maestà Britannica.

Oltre a quanto dettore di sopra noi abbiamo ancora ampie ragioni a prometterci bene della giustizia del Governo Britannico, e ciò sulle assicurazioni che Lord Palmerston ha fatto a' nostri Commissarj a Londra, che il Gabinetto Inglese approvava la scelta già fatta del nostro Principe, e ci si accertava più e più

sempre per comunicazione del medesimo nobile Lord a' Commissarij suddetti del pronto riconoscimento ufficiale del Governo Inglese, e sulla conoscenza ufficiale che noi abbiamo, per come scritte nella lettera in data del 9 Agosto corrente a lei diretta da questo Ministero, delle comunicazioni ufficiali fatte al Governo di Sardegna dal Rappresentante Inglese, Sir Ralph Abercromby, per le quali si faceva conoscere che l'Inghilterra approvava la scelta dei Siciliani ed avrebbe prontamente riconosciuto ufficialmente il Governo di Sicilia; e per ultimo su ciò che i nostri Commissarij in Torino ci assicurano nei loro ultimi dispacci del 9 corrente Agosto intorno agli incoraggiamenti che lo stesso Sir Ralph Abercromby il giorno 7 corrente Agosto aveva lor dato a proposito della accettazione del Duca di Genova del pronto riconoscimento della Gran Bretagna. Per altro i diritti della antichissima Costituzione Siciliana rivendicati da noi così legalmente, e in un modo che ha riscosso l'approvazione dell' Inghilterra e di tutte le nazioni civili, il sentimento di quella giustizia che distingue la nazione Britannica e che alla Sicilia è cotanto meritamente dovuta, ed aggiunto a ciò il conosciuto, ragionevole, ed inalterabile abborrimento che la Sicilia ha ed avrà sempre per la dinastia di Napoli, sono fatti che ci assicurano validamente del buon esito della causa santa della libertà e della indipendenza della Sicilia.

Ritornando su i disastri toccati all' armata Piemontese, ella può ben supporre che nella mente di questo Governo siasi naturalmente elevati de' sospetti quanto alle mene ed a raggi del Governo di Napoli contro di noi, incoraggiato forse dal risultato di tali disastri. Questo Governo è anco informato della missione a Parigi e a Londra del Conte Ludolf accompagnato dal Principe Petrucci, l'ultimo dei quali per decreto di questo Parlamento è stato già, per avere intrapresa cotale missione, dichiarato traditore della Sicilia. Quest' atto, e gli armamenti che noi continuiamo con ogni vigore, per esser pronti a difenderci validamente e sino all' ultimo, le confermeranno e lo spirito pubblico e la disposizione della Sicilia, e quanto io le ho detto dell' abborrimento che noi tutti sentiamo e sentiremo sempre pel Governo e per la dinastia di Napoli. Quanto all' oggetto della missione di Ludolf e Petrucci, noi sappiamo che delle aperture sieno state fatte tanto alla Repubblica Francese quanto al Governo di Sua Maestà Britannica, perchè la Sicilia, conservando la sua forma di Stato indipendente, si abbia a Re invece del Duca di Genova, il secondo genito del Re di Napoli. Su questo punto è mio dovere farle riflettere che questo accomodamento non avrebbe altra mira che il solo vantaggio de' Borboni, poichè l'abborrimento in Sicilia per siffatta dinastia è tale che la sola nomina di un Borbone sarebbe il segnale di una rivoluzione che susciterebbe naturalmente discordie e guerre civili ignote finora tra noi; e certo non saria modo di assicurare il bene e la tranquillità di un popolo l'imporre ad esso per primo atto un Re che non potrebbe esistere che col solo ajuto delle armi straniere, ed odioso per ciò fin dal suo primo regnare. Ed armi straniere sono anco e saranno sempre per la Sicilia le popolarmente abborrite milizie Napolitane. Aggiunga a questo che le ragioni le quali consigliarono questo Parlamento a non chiamare al Trono un figlio del Gran Duca di Toscana, si farebbero sentire più forti riguardo a un figlio del Re di Napoli. Uno Stato appena sorto al libero reggimento abbisogna di un capo maturo e non di un fanciullo retto da una nominale reggenza. Ella ben sa come sempre le reggenze siano state fatali agli Stati quantunque bene e solidamente ordinati, e come perciò ogni buona ragione consigli uno stato nuovo a fuggirle nel primo passo della sua esistenza politica. La forza di questo ragionamento è così sentita da ogni Siciliano che forma parte importantissima del convincimento politico di ognuno di noi. Aggiunga di più che se tanto si rifuggiva da una Reggenza trattandosi di un Principe della Casa di Toscana, la quale per la sua condizione politica non poteva influire per nulla nelle cose nostre, questi giusti timori devono suscitarsi mille volte più forte trattandosi di Reggenza con un Principe di Napoli, nè in tal caso saria mai possibile togliere dalla mente del popolo la persuasione fatale che sotto il nome del figlio e sotto il manto della Reggenza, si vorrebbe far regnare virtualmente Ferdinando.

Quanto io le ho esposto ella dee ritenerlo non come detto per mera forma diplomatica ma come dettato dal profondo convincimento di quanti qui hanno senno, e di quanti amano, con la libertà e l'indipendenza, i veri interessi e la tranquillità vera della Sicilia.

Crediamo adunque essere giunto il momento in che il Governo Britannico, sulla intelligenza di quanto le ho scritto nella presente, si adoperi decisamente

e francamente per la Sicilia, mentre per noi, da parte nostra non saremo per mancare ai doveri di Siciliani liberi e indipendenti. E poichè non abbiamo ancora Ministro Inglese a Palermo, voglia ella esserci benigno del favore di portare questi nostri sensi alla conoscenza del Governo di Sua Maestà Britannica; e con quello interesse generoso e co' buoni uffizj dei quali ha avvalorato sinora la nostra causa, aiutarla in questi momenti ne' quali l'onore della Sicilia, il nostro credito, la pronta composizione degli affari nostri e la necessità di consolidare il nostro stato richiedono istantemente la più pronta e sollicita azione del Governo Britannico.

Con questa stessa occasione noi scriviamo di tutto questo ai nostri Commissarj in Londra; ma torno a pregarla però di volere ella medesima darne conoscenza diretta al Governo di Sua Maestà Britannica, ed onorarmi di qualche risposta.

Accetti, &c.

(Firmato) **MARCHESE DI TORREARSA,**
Ministro degli Affari Esteri e del Commercio.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Palermo, August 20, 1848.

I INCLOSE a letter written by me on the 15th instant, in which I had the honour to announce to you the change of Ministry.

I have now to inform you that the intelligence of the disasters of the Piedmontese army, which reached us on the 16th instant, have in no way altered either the position or the state of our affairs. The Government and the Parliament of Sicily remain firm in the resolutions already taken and officially notified to England and France and to the several Governments of Italy, for the simple reason that it has never been felt, nor consequently has any profession ever been made either to the two great Powers or to any other Government in or out of Italy, that the individual fate of Sicily should in the smallest degree depend either on a defeat or a victory of the King of Sardinia. It is true that our policy ought (and such will always be the obligations of our policy in the event of more fortunate circumstances for the rest of Italy) to follow and to adhere to the general interests of the whole Peninsula, in the sense of the League which initiated the reforms of the Italian States, and which the British Government had so wisely favoured; but in regard to the individuality and independence of Sicily there was not nor should there be any reason, either of policy or of diplomacy, which could raise a doubt of its existence.

Being therefore resolved, as in fact this Government and the whole of Sicily are most resolved as to the decrees of our Parliament, and having no doubt, as the British Government and the whole world knows we have reason not to doubt, that the Duke of Genoa will accept, if indeed at the moment in which this is written he has not in fact already accepted, the election of the Sicilian Parliament of the 11th July, 1848, this Government cannot be otherwise than certain that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty will as soon as practicable, add to the good wishes and courtesy which it has hitherto afforded to us, a most important act of justice; that of its official recognition, promised to us so explicitly, and with such a generous and noble frankness, on the sole condition of our choosing an Italian Prince, which choice has been fulfilled by this Parliament in the above-named decree, and regularly notified to the Government of Great Britain through our accredited representatives, and recognised by the same, through the instructions given in anticipation to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, commanding Her Britannic Majesty's fleet in the Mediterranean, who entering our harbours and finding the election of a King in the person of an Italian Prince already completed, honoured our flag by a salute from the fleet of Her Britannic Majesty.

In addition to what has been stated above, we have also ample reasons to feel confidence in the justice of the British Government, and that too from the assurances given by Lord Palmerston to our Commissioners in London, that the English Cabinet approved of the choice already made of our Prince, and from the early official recognition of the English Government more positively assured to us by the communication of the same noble Lord to the above-mentioned Commissioners; also from the official knowledge we possess, as stated in the

letter of the 9th August instant, directed to you by this Ministry, of the official communications made to the Government of Sardinia by the English Representative, Sir Ralph Abercromby, through which information was given that England approved of the choice made by the Sicilians, and would promptly recognise officially the Government of Sicily; and finally, from the circumstance that our Commissioners in Turin, in their last despatches of the 9th August instant, assure us that the said Sir Ralph Abercromby, on the 7th day of August instant, in relation to the acceptance of the Duke of Genoa, encouraged them to hope in a prompt recognition by Great Britain. Moreover, the rights of the ancient Constitution of Sicily so lawfully vindicated by us, in a manner which has received the approval of England and of all civilized nations; the feelings of that justice which distinguishes the British nation, and which is so deservedly due to Sicily, and in addition to that, the well-known, reasonable, and unalterable abhorrence which Sicily feels and will always feel for the dynasty of Naples, are facts which strongly assure to us the good success of the holy cause of the liberty and independence of Sicily.

To return to the disasters which have befallen the Piedmontese army, you may well imagine that suspicions have naturally been excited in the mind of this Government relative to the plans and schemes of the Government of Naples against us, encouraged possibly by the result of such disasters. This Government is also informed of the mission of Count Ludolf to Paris and London, in company with Prince Petrucci, the latter of whom has already been declared traitor to Sicily by a decree of this Parliament, for having undertaken such a mission. This act, and the armaments which we continue to make with every effort, that we may be ready to defend ourselves with bravery to the last, will convince you of the public spirit and disposition of Sicily, and of what I have told you of the abhorrence which we all feel, and shall always feel, for the Government and dynasty of Naples. With respect to the object of Ludolf and Petrucci's mission, we know that overtures have been made both to the French Republic and to the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, to the effect that Sicily, retaining her form as an independent State, may take the second son of the King of Naples for their Sovereign, instead of the Duke of Genoa. On this point it is my duty to bring to your observation that this compromise could have no other object than the sole advantage of the Bourbons, for such is the abhorrence felt in Sicily towards that dynasty, that the nomination of a Bourbon would alone be the signal for a revolution which would naturally excise discords and civil wars hitherto unknown amongst us; and it would surely be a bad mode of securing the advantage and tranquillity of a people to impose on them at the outset a King who could not exist without the aid of foreign arms, and who would in consequence be hateful from the commencement of his reign: and the popularly detested Neapolitan soldiery always are and always will be foreign arms for Sicily. Add to the above that the reasons which induce this Parliament not to call to the Throne a son of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, would be still more strongly felt in respect to a son of the King of Naples. A State which is but just raised to free government wants a mature head, and not a child governed by a nominal regency. You well know that regencies have always been fatal to States, however well and strongly settled, and that consequently every good reason should induce a new State to avoid them in the first stage of its political existence. The force of this reasoning is so strongly felt by every Sicilian, that it forms a most important part of the political conviction of every one of us. Add also that if there was such a repugnance to a Regency in connection with a prince of the House of Tuscany, which by its political condition could exert no influence on our affairs, those just fears would be a thousand times more strongly excited by a Regency in connection with a Prince of Naples; nor in such case would it ever be possible to eradicate from the minds of the people the fatal persuasion that under the name of his son, and under the cloak of the Regency, the object would be that Ferdinand should virtually reign.

You will receive what I have here expressed not as though stated for mere diplomatic form, but as dictated by the profound conviction of all men of sense, and of all those who desire, with liberty and independence, the true interests and the true tranquillity of Sicily.

We are then of opinion that the moment is arrived when the British Government, having heard what I have written in the present letter, may act frankly and decisively for Sicily, while on our part we shall not be wanting in the duties

of free and independent Sicilians. And since we have not yet an English Minister at Palermo, we will request you to do us the favour of bringing these our feelings to the knowledge of the Government of Her Britannic Majesty; and with that generous interest and kind offices by which you have hitherto encouraged our cause, we request your assistance at this time, in which the honour of Sicily, our credit, the early settlement of our affairs, and the necessity of consolidating our State, earnestly demand the most prompt and diligent action of the British Government.

By this occasion we communicate to our Commissioners in London upon all that is here contained, but we repeat our request to you, notwithstanding, that you will yourself lay the same directly before the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, and do me the honour of giving me a reply.

Receive, &c.

(Signed) **MARCHESE DI TORREARSA,**
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commerce.

No. 266.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

(Extract.)

Admiralty, September 2, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, containing intelligence respecting the state of affairs and proceedings at Messina.

Inclosure in No. 266.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Hibernia," Naples, August 23, 1848.

THE "Porcupine" was dispatched to Palermo on the 21st with a supply of provisions to the "Odin" and to collect intelligence from thence, as we have had no direct communication with that quarter for a considerable time.

A letter just received from Captain Robb, dated yesterday at Messina, informs me that on the evening of the 21st instant a Neapolitan steam-frigate grounded outside the lighthouse at Messina: he sent an officer to offer assistance, but it was declined. On the morning of the 22nd a Sicilian battery opened fire on the steam-frigate, but was soon silenced by the citadel and forts held by the Neapolitans: in the course of the day, however, without any further provocation, the citadel fired several shot and shell into the town, which had remained tranquil since the Armistice of the 2nd of May, and several women and children who were following their ordinary occupations have unfortunately fallen victims to this wanton proceeding. One British subject, an Ionian boy, is amongst the sufferers, having lost a leg.

Captain Robb has called the attention of the General in the citadel to this barbarous proceeding, but I have not time to forward copies of his communications by this conveyance.

The Neapolitan steam-frigate was got afloat on the 23rd.

No. 267.

The Hon. R. Abercromby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 4.)

My Lord,

Turin, August 29, 1848.

THE Sicilian deputation sent to this country to present to His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa the decree of the Sicilian Parliament conferring upon His Royal Highness the Crown of Sicily, was received on Sunday last at Alexandria by His Sardinian Majesty and by the Duke of Genoa.

The deputation was most courteously received by the King and by his son, and the members of the deputation have returned to Turin for the purpose of waiting here for the communication of the official answer by the Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. ABERCROMBY.

No. 268.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September 7, 1848.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 14th ultimo, inclosing the depositions taken at Corfu with respect to the capture by the Neapolitan naval forces of certain Sicilian vessels, I have to inform your Lordship that as these depositions seem to prove that these vessels had not reached the limits of Ionian jurisdiction when they were taken, your Lordship was right in not making any further demand in regard to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON

No. 269.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September 7, 1848.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 24th ultimo inclosing an instruction you had addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo with reference to the recent events in the north of Italy, I have to inform you Her Majesty's Government approve of the purport of that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 270.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)

(Extract.) *Naples, August 28, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Goodwin, explanatory of the motives which led to the resignation of the late Sicilian Cabinet.

I am assured from many quarters that the new Administration is composed of estimable persons in close connection both private and public with their predecessors, and that there has been in fact rather a transposition than a vital change, involving neither an alteration of parliamentary policy nor of popular affection.

Inclosure in No. 270.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord, *Palermo, August 12, 1848.*

A SUDDEN change of Ministry has just taken place. A conference between the two Chambers on the proposed loan having led to an adjournment, a paper calling for a change of Ministry, drawn up by La Masa and Raffaelli, two leading Republicans, and signed by about thirty Members, was put in circulation. No sooner had it reached the eyes of Ministers than they threw up their offices in a body. Their resignation was accepted, and the Marchese Torreaarsa, President of the Commons, was charged with the duty of forming a new Administration.

Pending the discharge of the task a few words may be said on the grounds of the recent change.

The Chamber of Commons was at first divided into two parties, viz., the Monarchical, which numbered about 150 members, and the Republican, which boasted of 70. The relative proportion soon changed materially; as most of the Members employed in missions abroad and offices at home were taken from the former party, its number decreased gradually from 150 to 100, whilst the strength of the latter, few of whose members were employed in the public service, remained much about the same. The latter too composed chiefly of Palermitans, held its ground firmly, but the former consisting mostly of provincials, was reduced still further by numerous leaves of absence, insomuch that it fell to eighty, or ten only above the level of its adversary.

Thus matters stood on the memorable 11th July, when a King was elected, shortly after which epoch parties fell from various causes to forty and thirty respectively. The majority of ten still possessed by the Monarchicals threatened to disappear by the accession of ten waverers to the ranks of their opponents. Ministers thus situated thought it behoved them to retire and they accordingly resigned *en masse*.

Two circumstances in particular besides parliamentary tactics have brought about the unforeseen result. The one is public disappointment at the delay in the acceptance of the Crown, and the other is public apprehension at the prospect of an early invasion. It was expected that the acceptance of the Duke of Genoa would have been immediate and followed by the formal recognition of France and England. It was in vain that Ministers pleaded that they were not responsible for the delay of tidings, as they were wholly dependent on foreign steamers for the transport of correspondence.

The irritated public was deaf to reason, and the "pressure from without" became irresistible. Moreover, shortly after the election of a King, just as the taxes were beginning to be paid and the treasury to be replenished, the news of an impending invasion struck the maritime population with fear and dismay. The inhabitants of the great towns alarmed for their personal safety threw up bulwarks and barricades, and diverted the public money from general ends to local purposes. Ministers thus shorn of their supplies had recourse to a foreign loan the hard terms of which gave offence to the public and thus destroyed their remaining popularity.

August 14. The reconstruction of the Ministry proved an easier task than the public had imagined. Aided by the retiring Ministers, Torreaarsa prevailed on Paterno, the Minister of War, to retain his office, and on Viola, the successor of Cerda, to exchange the Interior for Justice.

To Cordova, a provincial advocate and parliamentary speaker, has been given the Finances; and to La Farina, the ex-editor of the "*Alba*" at Florence, Public Instruction.

The Interior has devolved on Catalano, a distinguished advocate, and last not least, Torreaarsa has taken Foreign Affairs and Commerce for himself. For the latter department his long services as director of the customs of Palermo qualify him fully.

The Presidency of the Commons thus vacated by Torreaarsa has been filled by Stabile, who was elected by seventy votes out of a hundred in preference to Emerico Amari, one of the Envoys to Turin, who obtained the residue with two exceptions. The policy of the new Ministry, as declared by the Premier on taking his official seat in the Peers and Commons, will be the same as that of the preceding Administration.

The experience of Torreaarsa as President of the Commons qualifies him in some measure for the task of administration. Accustomed to reply at once and decisively to the many questions addressed to him before the commencement of business, he will not be at a loss for answers when importuned by a multitude of querists as is daily the case with Ministers.

Michele Amari, the ex-Minister of Finance, is destined to be Keeper of the Records, an employment to which his historical researches give him a just and undeniable claim. Released from the toils of office it is hoped that he will be able to bring his "*History of Sicily under the Arabs*" to a speedy conclusion. Those who have seen it in manuscript augur well of its success in print.

August 16. It appears on careful inquiry that the factious paper said to have been drawn up by La Masa and Raffaele existed only in the brain of some emissary by whom it was represented as ominous to Ministers. The latter giving heed to the report and disdaining to hold office on sufferance, resigned one and all without hesitation. Subsequent events have shown that they acted somewhat hastily in taking this step without consulting their supporters. The election of Stabile as President of the Commons has already been mentioned: it remains to record his election as President of the Casino, a club composed of the *élite* of the middle classes by an unanimous vote of the members, as a deserved tribute to his social worth, as the former act was a just homage to his political character.

Raffaele it appears disavows all share in the factious movement which proceeded from a group of about thirty members, hastily collected in a private house, and La Masa, the reputed author of the measure, has gone to Ternini.

August 19. It appears that La Masa's journey to Termini arose out of the assassination of his brother-in-law which has just been perpetrated. Since his return he has changed his parliamentary tone to constitutional. Satisfied with the retirement of Signor Stabile he has begun to support Ministers instead of opposing them as before.

The projected loan which caused the retirement of the late Ministry, has been carried through the Chambers with slight alteration by Cordova, the new Minister of Finance, who stands well with all parties and bids fair to be a leading statesman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

No. 271.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 28, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith three despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, illustrative of the state of public feeling and spirit of national resistance against the supposed designs of the Government of Naples; and descriptive of the constitution of the new municipality of Palermo, at the head of which has been placed Prince Scordia, a nobleman of most distinguished birth who had a seat in the late Cabinet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 271.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, August 9, 1848.

THE telegraphic advice from Syracuse which created such alarm at Catania remains unexplained, and for want of explanation the incident is regarded as a device of the Minister of War to try the public temper and spirit in case of invasion. The defenceless state of the eastern coast is a subject of reproach to the Government with such as are not aware how slender and precarious are its means of armament.

A belief gains ground that the projected invasion can have no other effect than that of devastation. A force of 15,000 or 20,000 men may make itself master of Catania or Syracuse and perhaps hold it for a while, but a march to Palermo from either of these cities would be fraught with danger. There are several passes where a resolute band could keep an enemy at bay, and there are two or three towns where malaria is so powerful that to pass a night in them would sow the seeds of sickness in the army.

3 M

The spirit of the Chambers which had been somewhat damped by the untoward events of Calabria and Lombardy, has been raised and restored to vigour by the offer of a loan of 750,000*l.* from a French and English company that has lately been made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The prospects of an early invasion has caused some alarm at Catania, where, notwithstanding the zeal and energy of the armed population and the strong barricades that are arising to check the progress of an enemy, an opinion prevails that the present force is not sufficient to prevent a hostile landing. A Neapolitan army would probably be defeated on its march up the country, but it might do considerable damage to the town and neighbourhood during its stay upon the coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

P.S., *August 15.*—The alarm at Catania has subsided by degrees as the prospect of invasion has become less distinct. Public spirit, far from relaxing, has become more vigilant. On the mainroads outside the town trenches have been dug and barricades erected. The Porta di Palermo above all is secured by a thick wall pierced with embrasures and loop-holes for artillery and musketry, which would prove a formidable obstacle to an invading force. The personnel as well as the matériel engages care and attention. No Catanese family can leave the town without a regular pass; no able-bodied man is exempt from military duty. The clergy, regular and secular, are to hold themselves in readiness to take up arms in case of invasion.

Inclosure 2 in No. 271.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, August 19, 1848.

THE appearance of a man-of-war steamer off Catania on the 14th instant gave rise to sundry conjectures which were multiplied on the following days when she hoisted Neapolitan colours, drew near to the town, cruized off and on under easy steam for many hours, and finally appeared on the 16th, hull down, off Cape St. Croce.

A notion prevails in Catania that the first object of the Neapolitans will be the almost defenceless Syracuse.

Inclosure 3 in No. 271.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, August 22, 1848.

THE inauguration of the new Municipality of Palermo has taken place under the best auguries of future happiness and welfare. A civil council composed of 110 members representing all classes of society, as nobles and landlords, merchants and bankers, wholesale and retail traders, and members of the learned professions, a senate consisting of seven noblemen, and merchants, and a *Pretore*, Scordia, who as Prince of Butera is the first peer of the realm, have entered on their duties with the support and approbation of their fellow-citizens, to whose unbiassed judgment they owe their election.

A larger share of public confidence is granted to the new Ministry than was lately enjoyed by the old. The recent accession of Vito d'Ondes Reggio as Minister of the Interior gives satisfaction in most quarters. Well known as the eloquent apostle of free trade he is likewise celebrated as an advocate and as a judge, in which capacities he has figured both at home and abroad.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 272.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)

(Extract.)

Naples, August 28, 1848.

IN my despatch of the 24th instant I had the honour to submit to your Lordship copy of an instruction to Mr. Goodwin.

At the time I shared the impression common in the Diplomatic Body and the public, that the expedition meditated against Sicily was at least temporarily abandoned, and that the concerted counsels of Great Britain and the French Republic might ultimately allay the animosities and reconcile the interests of Sicily and Naples by some transaction, which, if not corresponding to the present pretensions of the rival parties, might avert the calamities of war by a compromise suitable to the revolution in Italian politics.

The spirit of the Sicilian people is likely to be put to the severest test, for the Government of Naples are now reported to have at length determined on a formidable effort for the reduction of the island, and it will be shortly shown whether the Parliament of Palermo is able in truth to oppose an effectual bar to foreign invasion, or whether as in Lombardy, resistance will melt away before the approach of the enemy.

Inclosure in No. 272.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, August 23, 1848.

NO sooner had I had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 21st August, than I called on the President of the kingdom and read your Lordship's despatch to him in English and in Italian. Proceeding to the Marquis of Torrearsa I read over your Lordship's despatch in Italian. The Marchese expressed his sense of gratitude to your Lordship for the warm and hearty interest you have taken in behalf of the prisoners.

No. 273.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)

(Extract.)

Naples, August 28, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Goodwin, containing a printed copy of the new Sicilian Constitutional Statute, to which I have added a translation.

Inclosure 1 in No. 273.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, August 23, 1848.

IN conformity to your Lordship's directions I have the honour to inclose a printed copy of the fundamental Statute of the Kingdom of Sicily decreed 10th July, 1848, together with a paper of mine showing the points of agreement and difference between the Constitution of 1812 and the fundamental Statute of 1848. The translation of the Statute shall be made forthwith.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 273.

Observations of Consul Goodwin on the Sicilian Constitution.

THE Constitution of 1848 agrees with the Constitution of 1812 in many respects and differs from it in others.

The points of agreement are,

1. The Roman Catholic Religion to be the religion of the State, and the King to be obliged to profess the same on pain of being *ipso facto* dethroned.
2. The Legislative power to reside wholly in Parliament, the laws to be in force when they shall be sanctioned by the King.
3. The Executive power to reside in the King.
4. The King to have the power to convoke the Parliament.
5. The Parliament to be composed of two Chambers.
6. No Sicilian to be arrested or punished except according to law.
7. Every proposal relative to subsidies to begin in the Lower Chamber, the Upper Chamber to have the right of assenting or dissenting without modifying the proposal.

The points of difference are,

1. That the Roman Catholic Religion is not exclusive of any other as was formerly the case.
2. That the King has not the *veto* or *placet* on the Acts of Parliament, but must promulgate the law if Parliament insists upon it in the following session.
3. That the Chambers are called respectively the Chambers of Deputies and Senators instead of House of Commons and Peers.
4. That both these Chambers are elective instead of one being hereditary as formerly.
5. That the King cannot prorogue or dissolve the Parliament as formerly.
6. That not only all laws relating to subsidies but all that relates to expenditure as well as to the strength of the army and navy must begin in the Lower Chamber, the Upper Chamber having only the right of assenting or dissenting as before.
7. That the qualification of a deputy is changed from one of possessing money exclusively to one of belonging to certain classes of society.
8. That the qualification of an elector is also changed from one of possessing money to being able to read and write.
9. That the Peers are with certain exceptions superseded by Senators who are elected in the same way as the Deputies.
10. That the National Guard is a permanent institution which cannot be suspended or abolished by the Executive.

(Signed)

JOHN GOODWIN.

Palermo, August 24, 1848.

Inclosure 3 in No. 273.

Sicilian Constitution decreed in the General Parliament at Palermo, July 10, 1848.

TITOLO PRIMO.

RELIGIONE, INDIPENDENZA, SOVRANITA.

Art. 1. La religione dello Stato è la Cattolica, Apostolica, Romana.
Quando il Re non vorrà professarla sarà *ipso facto* decaduto.

Art. 2. La Sicilia sarà sempre Stato indipendente.

Il Re dei Siciliani non potrà regnare o governare su verun altro paese.

Ciò avvenendo sarà decaduto *ipso facto*.

La sola accettazione di un altro principato o Governo lo farà anche incorrere *ipso facto* nella decadenza.

Art. 3. La Sovranità risiede nella universalità dei cittadini Siciliani: niuna classe, niun individuo può attribuirsi l'esercizio.

I poteri dello Stato sono delegati e distinti, secondo il presente Statuto.

TITOLO SECONDO.

POTERE LEGISLATIVO.

Art. 4. Il potere di far leggi, interpretare, e dispensare ad esse appartiene esclusivamente al Parlamento.

Art. 5. Il Parlamento, composto da' Rappresentanti del popolo, è diviso in due Camere, dette l'una dei Deputati, l'altra de' Senatori.

CAP. I.

Elezioni e Rappresentanza.

Art. 6. Tutti i cittadini che abbiano compiuti gli anni 21, e che sappiano leggere e scrivere, sono elettori nel luogo del proprio domicilio, o dove abitano da tre mesi.

Art. 7. Non sono elettori:

1. I soldati delle truppe di terra e di mare.
2. I regolari.
3. I condannati per delitti, durante la pena.
4. I condannati per delitti di furto, frode, falsità, calunnia, o falsa testimonianza sino a due anni dopo la espiazione della pena.
5. I condannati per misfatti, sino alla riabilitazione.

Art. 8. Possono essere Deputati, purchè abbiano compiuti gli anni venticinque:

1. I Professori delle Università, de' Licei e de' Collegi.
2. I membri dell'Istituto d'Incoraggiamento, delle Società e delle Commissioni Economiche del regno.
3. I membri delle Accademie letterarie, scientifiche ed artistiche del regno.
4. I dottori e licenziati in qualunque facoltà.
5. Coloro che dall'esercizio d'una professione scientifica ricavano un emolumento di onze diciotto annuali.
6. I Commercianti con case e stabilimenti di commercio.
8. I Professori di arti liberali.
7. I proprietari d'una rendita perpetua, o vitalizia di onze diciotto annuali.

Art. 9. Possono essere Senatori, purchè abbiano compiuti gli anni trentacinque:

1. I già Presidenti e Vice-Presidenti della Camera de' Deputati.
2. Coloro che per due legislature sono stati Deputati.
3. I già Ministri, Ambasciadori e Plenipotenziari costituzionali.
4. I già Direttori di Ministero Costituzionale.
5. Il Giudice della Monarchia, i Vescovi, Arcivescovi, Archimandrita di Messina, Abate di Santa Lucia, Siciliani.
6. I Professori d'Università.
7. I Soci dell'Istituto d'Incoraggiamento.
8. Coloro che dall'esercizio d'una professione scientifica ricavano un emolumento di onze duecento annuali.
9. I proprietari di un'annua rendita perpetua o vitalizia di onze cinquecento annuali.

Art. 10. Non possono esse Deputati nè Senatori:

1. I Ministri, o Direttori di Ministero in esercizio.
2. I Magistrati e gl'Impiegati dell'ordine Giudiziario in esercizio.
3. I Funzionari e gl'Impiegati dei Ministeri e d'ogni ramo di Amministrazione dello Stato.

4. Gli Ufficiali ed i Soldati delle truppe di terra e di mare.
 5. Coloro che hanno cariche ed uffici di Corte e gl'Impiegati di Casa Reale.
 6. Coloro che godono pensioni amovibili dal Potere Esecutivo.
 7. I Regolari.
 8. Gli analfabeti.
 9. I debitori morosi dello Stato o dei Comuni.
 10. Gli accusati per misfatti, finchè non tornio in libertà assoluta.
 11. I condannati per delitti durante la pena.
 12. I condannati per delitti di furto, frode, falsità, calunnia o falso testimonianza fino a due anno dopo la espazione delle pena.
 13. I condannati per misfatti sino alla riabilitazione.
- Le incompatibilità previste da' paragrafi 1, 2, 3, 4 e 5, non avranno vigore nel solo caso che l'impiegato o funzionario eletto a Rappresentante nell' una o nell' altra Camera rinunzi al suo ufficio pria di sedere in Parlamento.

Art. 11. Per ogni Comune di seimila abitanti sarà scelto un Deputato.

Per ogni Comune di diciottomila, due.

Per ogni Comune capo-luogo di circondario sebbene non abbia la popolazione di seimila abitanti, sarà scelto un rappresentante.

Dalle Università degli studi di Catania e Messina sarà scelto un rappresentante per ciascuna, e due da quella di Palermo.

Da' Comuni che sceglievano rappresentanti per la Costituzione del 1812, quantunque non abbiano la popolazione richiesta dal presente articolo, e non siano capi-luoghi di circondario, sarà scelto il numero di rappresentanti stabilito dalla Costituzione del 1812.

Per tutt'altri Comuni sono formate tante associazioni di 8,500 abitanti, da ciascuna delle quali sarà scelto un deputato secondo l'apposito regolamento.

Dal Comune di Palermo ne verranno scelti 10; da quei di Messina e Catania 5 per ognuno.

Dall' Isola di Lipari due.

Art. 12. I Senatori saranno centoventi; si eleggeranno dalle associazioni distrettuali in proporzione degli abitanti d'ogni distretto. Dei Senatori del distretto di Messina uno sarà eletto dagli elettori dell' Isola di Lipari e sue adjacenze.

Art. 13. L'ufficio dei Deputati durerà per due anni; quello dei Senatori per sei.

Gli uni e gli altri potranno essere rieletti.

Art. 14. I Deputati e i Senatori, durante il loro ufficio e per due anni dopo, non potranno accettare benefici, cappellanie, cariche o impieghi, il di cui conferimento appartenga al Potere Esecutivo. Potranno essere eletti Ministri, restando sospesi dalle funzioni di Deputato o Senatore, durante tale carica.

Art. 15. Potranno i Comuni concedere a' rappresentanti pel periodo delle sessioni una indennità non eccedente tari venti al giorno, tranne a coloro che risiedono nella capitale.

Art. 16. Sarà proibito a truppa di qualunque sorta di risiedere in quei luoghi in cui si fanno le elezioni. Se vi si troverà forza armata di ordinaria guarnigione, menochè il servizio del giorno puramente necessario, dovrà questa allontanarsi almeno alla distanza di due miglia otto giorni prima, e ritornare otto gioni dopo che saranno compite le elezioni.

Art. 17. I membri del Parlamento sono inviolabili per tutto ciò che avranno detto, scritto, o votato nello esercizio delle loro funzioni. Qualunque Magistrato attenti a tale inviolabilità sarà destituito ed esiliato dal regno per anni dieci. Il Re non potrà mai fargli grazia.

Nessun Senatore o Deputato, durante la sessione e per un mese antecedente e susseguente, potrà essere arrestato senza permesso della Camera cui appartiene, tranne il caso di flagranza.

Art. 18. I membri del Parlamento rappresentano l'intera Sicilia, non i comuni o i distretti particolari dai quali sono eletti.

CAPO II.

Del Parlamento.

Art. 19. Il Parlamento si riunirà di dritto in Palermo il 12 Gennaro di ogni anno. Alla solenne apertura che avrà luogo nella Chiesa di S. Domenico, il Re interverrà personalmente o per mezzo d'un suo delegato.

Potrà il Re, al bisogno, straordinariamente convocarlo.

Art. 20. La Camera de' Deputati è legalmente costituita con la presenza di sessanta, e quella de' Senatori con trenta componenti.

Le deliberazioni saranno prese a maggioranza assoluta. Il Presidente avrà voto nel solo caso di parità.

Art. 21. Ciascuna Camera verifica i poteri de' suoi membri e ne giudica.

Art. 22. Ogni sessione parlamentaria avrà la durata di tre mesi: potrà dalle Camere essere di accordo prolungata.

Art. 23. La sessione delle due Camere sarà contemporanea.

Art. 24. Le sedute saranno pubbliche. Ciascuna Camera si riunirà in comitato segreto sulla richiesta di cinque membri. La Camera deciderà in seguito se la seduta debba riaprirsi al pubblico.

Art. 25. Ciascuna Camera avrà un regolamento per l'esercizio delle sue funzioni.

Art. 26. L'iniziativa della legge appartiene ad ambe le Camere. Ogni Camera ha il dritto di assentire, dissentire o proporre modificazioni alla legge votata dall'altra Camera.

Nessun progetto sarà legge ove non sia contentito da ambe le Camere.

Art. 27. Nel caso che le due Camere siano d'accordo in alcuni punti, e discordi in altri dello stesso progetto di legge, potranno deputare un numero uguale de' rispettivi membri, perchè sedendo insieme procurino conciliare le differenze, e ridurre le Camere alla conformità dei voti. Il nuovo progetto sarà recato alla discussione delle Camere. Una proposta definitivamente rigettata non può riprodursi che alla nuova sessione.

Art. 28. Le leggi relative alle entrate e spese dello Stato, ed al quantitativo dell'esercito, e dell'armata, dovranno iniziarsi esclusivamente nella Camera de' Deputati.

La Camera de' Senatori avrà solamente il dritto di assentire o dissentire, senza farvi modificazioni.

Art. 29. Ciascuno de' membri del Parlamento ha dritto di proporre leggi. Ogni cittadino ha facoltà di presentare in sur nome, ma' solo in iscritto, petizioni e progetti per mezzo d'uno de' componenti le Camere.

I Ministri possono presentare e discutere progetti di legge.

Art. 30. La legge fatta dal Parlamento sarà nello spazio di trenta giorni promulgata dal Re, o con apposite osservazioni rimandata al Parlamento.

Quante volte nella sessione immediata a quella in cui la legge fu fatta il Parlamento vi persista, il Re fra quindici giorni dovrà necessariamente promulgarla.

Art. 31. Appartiene a ciascuna Camera il dritto di fare rimostranze e indirizzi per qualunque atto del Potere Esecutivo.

Art. 32. Ciascuna Camera avrà il dritto di ordinare l'arresto di chiunque l'abbia oltraggiata, giudicarlo, e punirlo; potrà invece, se lo crede, inviarlo ai magistrati ordinari per subire il competente giudizio.

Art. 33. La Camera de' Deputati si rinnoverà per intero, quella dei Senatori per terzo in ogni biennio.

Le Camere non possono essere disciolte nè sospese dal Re.

TITOLO TERZO.

POTERE ESECUTIVO.

Art. 34. Il Potere Esecutivo sarà esercitato dal Re per mezzo di Ministri responsabili ed eletti da lui.

CAPO I.

Del Re.

Art. 35. La persona del Re è inviolabile.

Art. 36. I poteri conferiti al Re dalla Costituzione si trasmettono per successione.

La sola discendenza del primo Re potrà regnare in Sicilia; morendo egli senza discendenti maschi, o pure estinta la di costoro linea discendentale maschile, la nazione sceglierà la novella dinastia.

La successione al Reame di Sicilia sarà sempre regolata con ordine di primogenitura agnatzia tra i discendenti maschi del Re con dritto di rappresentazione; in modochè i figli del primogenito predefunto escluderanno lo Zio secondo genito vivente, e così di seguito. Sono perpetuamente ed in tutti i casi escluse le femmine ed i loro discendenti anche maschi.

Morto un Re senza discendenti maschi succederà il fratello secondogenito, ed in suo difetto i di costui discendenti maschi collo stesso ordine di primogenitura agnatzia.

Estinta la di costui linea maschile succederà quella del terzo genito; e così di seguito; ben inteso però che in ogni caso di successione collaterale dovrà sempre darsi la preferenza alla linea ingressa, e di qualità più prossima all'ultimo defunto Re.

Art. 37. Tutte le quistioni di successione saranno decise dal Parlamento.

Art. 38. In mancanza di legittimi successori nell'ordine come sopra stabilito, la nazione eleggerà il nuovo Re.

Art. 39. Gli atti dello stato civile della Famiglia Reale saranno ricevuti nella forma comune dallo intero Magistrato Municipale del luogo ove si celebrano: una copia di essi sarà depositata nell'archivio dello Stato.

Art. 40. Alla morte del Re l'immediato successore assumerà il governo del regno. Dovrà però farsi riconoscere dal Parlamento, e presterà il giuramento alle Camere riunite nel Duomo di Palermo e nelle mani dell'Arcivescovo. Se la sessione del Parlamento non trovisi aperta, deesi fra un mese convocare.

Le parole del giuramento sono:

"Io . . . Re de' Siciliani, giuro e prometto innauzi Dio, e per questi Santi Evangeli, di osservare e fare osservare la Costituzione del Regno di Sicilia, in virtù della quale sono chiamato a regnare."

Art. 41. La istruzione del Re minore sarà regolata dal Parlamento. La maggiore età del Re è fissata a 18 anni compiuti: appena giuntovi presterà il giuramento nei modi e colle condizioni prescritte nell'Articolo precedente.

Art. 42. La incapacità del Re per difetto intellettuale sarà giudicata dal Parlamento e dichiarata con un decreto.

Art. 43. Ne' casi di minore età, imbecillità del Re, o vacanza del trono appartiene al Parlamento istituire la Reggenza.

Art. 44. Se il Parlamento non vi abbia provveduto, e le Camere non sieno riunite, si formerà di dritto una Reggenza provvisoria composta dall'Arcivescovo di Palermo, da' due presidenti delle Camere, o da coloro che lo furono nell'ultima sessione, e dal Presidente del primo Magistrato giudiziario del regno.

Art. 45. Il Parlamento fisserà, ad ogni caso successione, la lista civile da durare per tutta la vita del Re.

Art. 46. Alla morte del Re il Parlamento, nel fissare la lista civile del successore, provvederà al mantenimento della regina vedova.

Art. 47. Il Re e tutti i successibili al Trono non potranno contrarre matrimonio senza in consenso del Parlamento.

Art. 48. Come qualunque cittadino ne' negozi civili, il Re è sottoposto alle leggi di privato diritto. La lista civile è immune da ogni azione.

Art. 49. I Principi e le Principesse sono sottoposti alla regole di privato diritto, come tutti i Siciliani.

Art. 50. Il Re non potrà per qualsiasi cagione allontanarsi dal regno senza il consenso del Parlamento, il quale non potrà accordarlo che per un termine fisso.

Il Re, che abbandonasse il regno senza tale consenso, o prolungasse la sua dimora fuori dell'Isola al di là del termine prefisso, non avrà più dritto a regnare: il suo successore, ove ne abbia, salirà al trono, o la nazione eleggerà il nuovo Re.

Art. 51. Non potrà il Re esercitare alcuno de' poteri delegati a lui dalla Costituzione senza consultare il Consiglio de' Ministri.

Art. 52. Nien ordine del Re sarà eseguito, se non sottoscritto da un Ministro.

Art. 53. Il Re rappresenterà la Sicilia nei rapporti colle altre Potenze.

Art. 54. Egli ha dritto di coniare moneta, conformandosi alla legge, fecendovi imprimere la sua effigie da un lato, dall'altro lo stemma della Sicilia.

Art. 55. Potrà intimare la guerra e conchiuder la pace; e, come la sicurezza e l'interesse dello Stato il permetteranno, ne darà comunicazione al Parlamento.

Art. 56. Potrà conchiudere trattati di alleanza e di commercio, i quali non avranno effetto senza l'assenso del Parlamento.

Art. 57. Non potrà introdurre nè tenere nel regno altre truppe e forze di terra e di mare se non quelle per le quali avrà ottenuto il consenso del Parlamento.

Art. 58. Conferirà il comando e tutti i gradi militari delle forze di terra e di mare, giusta la legge, salvo quel che è stabilito per la Guardia Nazionale.

Art. 59. Eleggerà gli ambasciatori e gli agenti diplomatici.

Art. 60. Provvederà le magistrature e tutte le cariche ed uffizi amministrativi dello Stato, secondo le leggi particolari.

Art. 61. Eserciterà tutti i dritti che per la Legazia Apostolica appartengono alla Monarchia di Sicilia.

Art. 62. Presenterà a tutti i benefizi ecclesiastici di patronato nazionale, a' quali è annessa cura di anime, e provvederà a tutt'altre nomine ecclesiastiche secondo le leggi.

Art. 63. Potrà far grazia, attenuare, commutare, condonare le pene, tranne i casi eccettuati dalla Costituzione, e salve sempre le azioni civili. L'atto di grazia sarà motivato e reso pubblico.

Art. 64. Il Re, a peso della lista civile, potrà istituire quegli uffizi di Corte che reputarà convenienti al servizio e decoro della sua casa.

Essi saranno incompatibili con qualsisia carica ed uffizio dello Stato: non daranno privilegio di sorta, nè preminenza o distinzione di grado sugli altri.

Art. 65. Il Re nella istituzione degli uffizi di Corte non potrà stabilire condizioni di classi o di ceti, nè categorie dentro le quali abbiano a conferirsi.

Art. 66. Il Re non ha altri poteri al di là di quelli conferiti dallo Statuto.

Egli s'intitolerà "Re dei Siciliani per la Costituzione del Regno."

CAPO II.

De' Ministri.

Art. 67. Al Re solo appartiene la elezione o revocazione de' Ministri.

Art. 68. I Ministri sono responsabili. Essi potranno esser processati e puniti ne' casi e modi stabiliti dalla apposita legge. Potrà il Parlamento domandar conto de' loro atti, sottoporli a giudizio, e punirli.

Il Re non potrà loro far grazia attenuando, commutando o condonando la pena.

Art. 69. L'ordine del Re, verbale o in iscritto, non potrà in alcun caso sottrarre il Ministro dalla responsabilità.

Art. 70. I Ministri devono render conto in ogni anno al Parlamento delle spese, e proporranno lo stato preventivo de' bisogni del loro ripartimento. Quello della Finanza renderà il conto dell' entrate e delle spese pubbliche, e proporrà il bilancio preventivo per l'anno seguente.

TITOLO QUARTO.

DEL POTERE GIUDIZIARIO.

Art. 71. Il Potere Giudiziario sarà esercitato dai magistrati istituiti dalla legge ed eletti dal Re.

La legge non istituirà che soli magistrati e giurisdizioni ordinarie, così civili che criminali, salvo le giurisdizioni ecclesiastiche secondo la disciplina della Chiesa di Sicilia, e le giurisdizioni militari per i reati e le persone militari, e per le altre da leggi speciali espressamente sottoposte allo Statuto Penale Militare, e salvo i giudizi per giurati nelle materie in cui saranno stabiliti dal Parlamento.

Il giudizio per giurati è stabilito in tutte le materie criminali e pei delitti politici o commessi per mezzo della stampa. Per tali delitti al solo giuri appartiene pronunziare anche pei danni ed interessi.

Nessun cittadino potrà ricusarsi di esser giudice ne' giudizi di fatto.

Art. 72. Il Potere Giudiziario nello esercizio delle sue funzioni sarà indipendente. I Giudici saranno sottoposti a giudizio a' termini della legge, e senza bisogno di autorizzazione.

Le udienze de' magistrati dell'ordine Giudiziario sono pubbliche.

Art. 73. L' Alta Corte del Parlamento è composta dalla Camera dei Deputati, che accusa, e da quella dei Senatori, che giudica.

Art. 74. Sono giudicabili dall' Alta Corte del Parlamento per tutti i fatti relativi all' esercizio delle loro funzioni, i Ministri ed i Magistrati Supremi dello Stato, secondo la legge che ne stabilisce le forme e le classi.

Art. 75. La giustizia sarà sempre amministrata in nome della legge. L'esecuzione sarà ordinata in nome della legge e del Re.

TITOLO QUINTO.

DI ALTRE ISTITUZIONI COSTITUZIONALI.

Art. 76. La Guardia Nazionale è una istituzione essenzialmente costituzionale. Gli ufficiali saranno scelti dalla stessa Guardia. Essa sarà ordinata da un' apposita legge.

Art. 77. La Guardia Nazionale non potrà essere giammai disciolta nè sospesa dal Potere Esecutivo.

Art. 78. I forti di ogni città del regno saranno affidati alla custodia della Guardia Nazionale.

Le truppe di linea potranno essere richieste dal Comandante locale della Guardia Nazionale per prestare nelle fortificazioni dello Stato quel servizio che essa crederà necessario.

Art. 79. La truppa nazionale di qualunque arma non potrà in tempo di pace eccedere il sesto della Guardia Nazionale di tutto il regno.

Art. 80. I Municipi in ciò che concerne l'azienda del proprio comune si amministreranno da se con quelle libertà, che saranno garantite e regolate da una legge speciale.

Nessun cittadino può ricusare gli uffizi municipali gratuiti nel municipio al quale appartiene.

Art. 81. La pubblica salute sarà affidata ad un Supremo Magistrato di Salute indipendente da qualunque altro potere nell'esercizio delle sue funzioni. Una legge speciale ne ordinerà i poterie darà le norme per bene esercitarli.

TITOLO SESTO.

DE' SICILIANI E DE' LORO DRITTI.

Art. 82. La qualità di Siciliano si acquista e si perde ne' modi prescritti dalle leggi civili.

La naturalizzazione non potrà concedersi che in virtù di una legge.

Art. 83. I Siciliani sono tutti uguali innanzi la legge. Essi soli, e senz'altra distinzione che il merito e la capacità sono ammessi agli uffizi, a' benefizi ed alle pensioni di qualunque natura e grado.

Art. 84. Un solo ordine nazionale di merito sarà stabilito come semplice designazione alla pubblica stima.

Non vi sarà ammessa alcuna precedenza e privilegio.

Nessun altro ordine precedente è riconosciuto.

Art. 85. Nessun cittadino potrà esser giudicato se non in vigore di una legge promulgata pria del fatto che dà luogo al procedimento, e per un regolare giudizio reso dal magistrato competente.

Art. 86. Il domicilio del cittadino è inviolabile. L'autorità pubblica non potrà penetrarvi, per investigazioni, che ne' casi stabiliti e con le forme ordinate dalla legge.

Art. 87. Nessun cittadino può essere arrestato fuori i casi stabiliti, e senza le forme ordinate della legge. Ciascun ha il dritto di resistenza contro ogni pubblico uffizio che volesse arrestarlo, o, con vie di fatto o minacce usargli violenza.

Art. 88. La parola e la stampa sono libere. I reati commessi per mezzo della parola e della stampa saranno puniti secondo la legge.

Art. 89. L'insegnamento è libero. Il pubblico insegnamento sarà gratuito e regolato da un' apposita legge.

Art. 90. Il segreto delle lettere è inviolabile.

Art. 91. I cittadini hanno dritto di adunarsi pacificamente e senza armi per privata o pubblica utilità, senza permesso alcuno, salvo l'applicazione delle leggi penali per i reati che si commetteressero per l'abuso di questo dritto.

Art. 92. Niuno può essere privato della sua proprietà se non per causa di utilità pubblica, nei casi e coi modi stabiliti dalla legge, e mediante giusto e precedente compenso.

Art. 93. Tutto ciò che non è proibito da una legge è permesso. Le leggi che restringono il libero esercizio dei dritti del cittadino non si estendono al di là dei tempi e dei casi in esse espressi.

TITOLO SETTIMO.

DELLA REVISIONE DELLO STATUTO.

Art. 94. Nessun Articolo dello Statuto potrà esser modificato se non dopo una dichiarazione del Parlamento, che proponga la riforma a farsi; in tal caso il Parlamento resterà disciolto di dritto per riunirsi dopo una nuova elezione. Tanto la deliberazione che propone la riforma, quanto quella del nuovo Parlamento non saranno efficaci se non prese col concorso di due terzi de' votanti presenti di ciascuna Camera.

TITOLO OTTAVO.

DISPOSIZIONI TRANSITORIE.

Art. 95. Nella prima sessione i Senatori si divideranno a sorte in tre classi. La prima durerà pe due anni, la seconda per quattro, la terza per sei.

Art. 96. Saranno chiamati durante la loro vita a far parte del Senato, oltre il numero dei centoventi, quei pari Temporalì che siedono per la Costituzione del 1812, e che il giorno 13 Aprile firmarono personalmente l'atto di decadenza.

Art. 97. Ninn Senatore potrà farsi rappresentare da procura.

Art. 98. Ruggiero Settimo sarà Senatore di dritto ed a vita cogli onori di Presidente della Camera dei Senatori. Questa rappresentanza non induce incompatibilità con qualunque grado, ufficio, o carica che gli si potrà conferire.

Fatto e deliberato in Palermo, il dì 10 Luglio, 1848.

Il Presidente della Camera de' Pari,
(Firmato) DUCA DI SERRADIFALCO.

Il Presidente della Camera de' Comuni,
(Firmato) MARCHESE DI TORREARSA.

Per copia conforme.

Il Presidente della Camera dei Pari,
(Firmato) DUCA DI SERRADIFALCO.

(Translation.)

CHAPTER 1.

RELIGION, INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY.

Article 1. The Catholic Apostolic Roman religion is the religion of the State.

If the King shall not choose to profess that religion he shall *ipso facto* lose the Crown.

Art. 2. Sicily shall ever be an independent State.

The King of the Sicilians cannot reign over or govern any other country.

Under such circumstances he shall *ipso facto* lose the Crown.

The act of accepting any other principality or government shall also *ipso facto* expose him to lose the Crown.

Art. 3. The sovereignty resides in the whole body of Sicilian citizens; no class or individual can arrogate to himself its exercise.

The powers of the State are delegated and distributed according to the present Statute.

CHAPTER II.

LEGISLATIVE POWERS.

Art. 4. The power of making, interpreting, and applying laws belongs exclusively to the Parliament.

Art. 5. The Parliament, which is composed of the Representatives of the people, is divided into two Chambers, one called Chamber of Deputies and the other of Senators.

PARAGRAPH I.

Of the Electors and Members.

Art. 6. All citizens who shall have reached the age of twenty-one years and who know how to read and write are electors for the place to which they belong or which they shall have inhabited for three months.

Art. 7. The following cannot be electors:

1. Soldiers of the land and naval forces.
2. Monks.
3. Those undergoing punishment in consequence of a legal condemnation.
4. Persons convicted of theft, fraud, falsification, calumny, or perjury, until two years after the expiration of their term of punishment.
5. Persons convicted of misdemeanours until they shall have recovered their political rights.

Art. 8. The following can be Deputies if they are of the full age of twenty-five years:

1. The Professors of the University, Lycæums and Colleges.
2. The Members of the Institution for the encouragement of Arts, and of the National Society and Commissions.
3. The Members of the scientific and artistic institutions of the kingdom.
4. All Doctors and persons graduated in any faculty.
5. Those who receive an income of 18 ounces [9*l*.] from the exercise of any scientific profession.
6. Merchants possessed of mercantile establishments.
7. Professors of the liberal arts.
8. Those possessed of a perpetual or life income of 18 ounces.

Art. 9. The following are eligible as Senators if they shall have completed the age of thirty-five years:

1. Those who have been Presidents or Vice-Presidents of the Chamber of Deputies.
2. Those who have sat as Deputies for two Parliaments.
3. Those who have been Ministers, Ambassadors or Plenipotentiaries under the Constitution.
5. The Giudice della Monarchia, the Bishops, Archbishops, Archimandrite of Messina and Abbot of St. Lucia, if they are Sicilians.
6. The Professors of the University.
7. The Fellows of the Society for the encouragement of Arts.
8. Those who derive an annual income of 200 ounces from the exercise of a scientific profession.
9. Persons possessed of a perpetual or life income of 500 ounces.

Art. 10. The following can neither be Deputies or Senators:

1. Ministers or directors of ministerial offices whilst in the exercise of their functions.
2. Magistrates and judicial officers in the exercise of their functions.
3. The functionaries and persons employed in all branches of the Government offices.
4. Officers and soldiers of the land and naval forces.
5. Those employed about the Court and King's household.
6. Those in the enjoyment of pensions which can be withheld by the Executive power.

7. Monks.

8. Those who cannot read or write.

9. Refractory debtors to the State or to Communes.

10. Those accused of crimes until restored to full liberty.

11. Those undergoing punishment for crimes.

12. Persons convicted of theft, fraud, falsification, calumny or perjury, until two years have elapsed from the expiration of their term of punishment; the disqualifications treated of under the heads 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, shall not come into force in the sole case of the functionary who shall have been elected having resigned his office previous to taking his seat.

Art. 11. One Deputy shall be chosen for every commune of 6000 inhabitants; two for every commune of 18,000.

A Representative shall be chosen for every town which is the chief place of a district, even if it have not 6000 inhabitants.

The Universities of Catania and Messina shall return one Representative each, and that of Palermo two.

Those communes which returned Members under the Constitution of 1812 shall return the same Members at present, even if they have not the required amount of population and even if they be not the chief towns of districts.

In the case of all other communes collectively a Deputy shall be returned by each body of 8,500 inhabitants.

Ten Members shall be returned by the commune of Palermo, and five each by Messina and Catania.

Two by the Island of Lipari.

Art. 12. The Senators shall be 120 in number, and shall be elected from the districts according to the proportion of their inhabitants.

Of the Senators for the district of Messina one shall be returned by the electors of the Island of Lipari and its dependencies.

Art. 13. The Deputies shall sit for two years, the Senators for six.

Both may be reelected.

Art. 14. Deputies and Senators in the exercise of their functions and for two years afterwards cannot accept benefices, preferment, charges or offices from the Executive power. They may be elected Ministers, but will be suspended from the function of Deputy or Senator during the time they may hold office.

Art. 15. Communes may indemnify their Representatives during the session to the amount of 20 taris a-day, excepting those who reside in the capital.

Art. 16. It shall be unlawful for troops of any kind to be stationed at the places where the elections are held. If there shall be there a regular garrison it must be removed two miles from the place eight days previous to the election, and not return till eight days after, leaving only a sufficient force for the regular daily service.

Art. 17. The members of the Parliament are inviolable, as far as regards anything they may have said, written, or voted whilst in the exercise of their functions. Any magistrate who shall infringe this inviolability shall be removed from office and exiled from the kingdom for ten years, and the King shall not have the power to pardon him.

No Senator or Deputy can be arrested without the permission of the Chamber to which he belongs during the session, or for one month before or after, except in flagrant cases.

Art. 18. The members of the Parliament represent the whole of Sicily, and not the particular communes or districts by which they have been returned.

PARAGRAPH II.

Of the Parliament.

Art. 19. Parliament shall meet by right in Palermo on the 12th of January of every year. The King shall attend either in person or by deputy the solemn opening of Parliament, which shall take place in the Church of St. Domenico.

The King has the power in case of necessity to call for an extraordinary meeting of the Parliament.

Art. 20. The presence of sixty members shall be necessary to form a quorum in the Chamber of Deputies, and of thirty in the Chamber of Senators.

Resolutions shall be passed by an absolute majority. The President shall have a casting vote only in case of the members being equally divided.

Art. 21. Each Chamber shall verify and pass judgment on the validity of the election of its members.

Art. 22. Each session shall last three months, but may be prolonged by the joint agreement of both Chambers.

Art. 23. The session of both Chambers shall be contemporaneous.

Art. 24. The meetings shall be public. Each Chamber upon the request of five of its members shall resolve itself into a secret committee. Subsequently the Chamber shall decide whether the public are to be re-admitted.

Art. 25. Each Chamber shall pass regulations respecting the exercise of its functions.

Art. 26. Each Chamber shall have the right to propose laws; each Chamber shall also have the right to assent to, dissent from, or modify a law proposed by the other Chamber.

No proposition shall pass into a law unless agreed to by both Chambers.

Art. 27. In case the two Chambers shall be agreed upon some clauses of a Bill and at issue upon others, they may depute an equal number of their respective members to meet together and endeavour to reconcile the differences and bring about an agreement between the two Chambers. The Bill thus altered shall be brought before the Chambers for discussion, but a Bill definitively rejected cannot be brought forward again until the next session.

Art. 28. The laws respecting the income and expenses of the State and the amount of the standing army shall be proposed exclusively by the Chamber of Deputies.

The Chamber of Senators shall only have the right of passing or rejecting them, but cannot make modifications.

Art. 29. Every member of Parliament has the right to propose laws. Every citizen has the right to present in his own name, through one of the members of the Chambers, petitions and propositions, but only in writing. Ministers may present and discuss propositions of laws.

Art. 30. A law passed by the Parliament shall be published by the King within the space of thirty days, or shall be sent back to the Parliament with corresponding observations.

But if in the succeeding session the Parliament shall persist therein, then the King shall be obliged without fail to publish it within fifteen days.

Art. 31. Each Chamber shall have the right to make remonstrances and addresses against any act of the Executive Power.

Art. 32. Each Chamber shall have the right of ordering the arrest of any individual who may have committed a breach of its privileges, and of trying and punishing him, or they may, if they think fit, send him to the ordinary tribunals for regular judgment.

Art. 33. The Chamber of Deputies shall be re-elected once in every two years, as shall also be one-third of the Chamber of Senators.

The Chambers cannot be dissolved or prorogued by the King.

CHAPTER III.

EXECUTIVE POWER.

Art. 34. The Executive power shall be exercised by the King through the agency of responsible Ministers who shall be chosen by him.

PARAGRAPH I.

Of the King.

Art. 35. The person of the King is inviolable.

Art. 36. The powers conferred upon the King by the Constitution are transmitted by succession.

The heirs of the body of the first King alone shall reign in Sicily; should he die without leaving male heirs, or should the male line become extinct, the nation shall choose another dynasty.

The succession to the Crown of Sicily shall always be regulated according to the laws of primogeniture amongst the male descendants of the King, so that the son of the first-born even if defunct shall exclude the living uncle, he being a younger son, and so on. Women and even their male descendants are for ever excluded from the Throne.

Upon the death of a King without male heirs the younger brother shall succeed, or in default of him his male heirs, according to the same laws of primogeniture. When this male line shall become extinct, that of the third brother shall succeed, and so on; it being well understood that in case of collateral succession the preference shall always be given to that branch which is nearest of kin to the last defunct Monarch.

Art. 37. All questions respecting succession shall be decided by the Parliament.

Art. 38. In default of legitimate heirs as specified above, the nation shall elect a new King.

Art. 39. The acts of the *état civil* of the Royal Family shall be made out in the usual form by the whole Municipal Body of the place where the Court may be at the time. Copies of them shall be deposited in the archives of the Kingdom.

Art. 40. On the death of the King his immediate heir shall assume the government of the kingdom. He must cause himself however to be acknowledged by the Parliament and shall take the oath administered to him by the Archbishop in the presence of the Chambers assembled in the cathedral of Palermo for the purpose. If Parliament is not sitting at the time it shall be convoked within a month. The form of the oath is the following "I, &c., King of the Sicilians, do hereby swear and promise in the presence of God and on the Holy Gospel, to observe and to cause to be observed the Constitution of the Kingdom of Sicily, in virtue of which I am called to the Throne."

Art. 41. The education of the King when a minor shall be directed by the Parliament.

The King becomes of age when he attains the age of eighteen years, having reached that age he shall take the oath as prescribed in the preceding Article.

Art. 42. The incapacity of the King to reign on account of unsoundness of mind shall be ascertained by the Parliament and declared by an appropriate decree.

Art. 43. In case of minority, imbecility of the King, or on the Throne becoming vacant, it is for the Parliament to form a Regency.

Art. 44. If Parliament should not have made any provision therefore and if the Chambers be not sitting, a Provisional Regency shall be formed by right composed of the Archbishop of Palermo, the two Presidents of the Chambers or of those who held that office during the last session, and of the President of the highest legal court of the kingdom.

Art. 45. Parliament shall determine on the accession of a new King the amount of the civil list which is to last during his life.

Art. 46. On the death of the King the Parliament whilst fixing the amount of the civil list for his successor shall also provide for the maintenance of the Dowager Queen.

Art. 47. The King and all those in the line of succession cannot contract matrimony without the consent of Parliament.

Art. 48. The King in his private transactions is subjected to the laws like any other citizen. The civil list is exempt from all legal proceedings.

Art. 49. The Princes and Princesses are subjected to the regulations of private rights like any other Sicilians.

Art. 50. The King cannot leave the kingdom under any pretence what-

ever without the consent of the Parliament, which can only give it for a determined period. Should the King abandon the kingdom without such consent or prolong his absence from the island beyond the time specified he shall lose the right of sovereignty; his successor, should he have any, shall take possession of the Throne, or the nation shall proceed to the election of a new King.

Art. 51. The King cannot exercise any of the powers committed to him by the Constitution without first consulting the Council of Ministers.

Art. 52. No order of the King shall be executed without the signature of a Minister.

Art. 53. The King represents Sicily in the intercourse with Foreign Powers.

Art. 54. He has the right to coin money in conformity with the laws, having the King's head on one side and the emblem of Sicily on the other.

Art. 55. The King can declare war and make peace and according as it shall be consistent with the safety and interest of the State shall make a communication of it to Parliament.

Art. 56. He shall make treaties of alliance and of commerce, but they shall not be carried into execution without the consent of the Parliament.

Art. 57. He cannot introduce or keep in the kingdom any other troops or land and sea forces but those for which he shall have obtained the sanction of the Parliament.

Art. 58. He shall have the power to confer the command of the land and sea forces to whom he pleases and to give military commissions according to the law excepting what has been established for the National Guard.

Art. 59. He shall appoint all the Ambassadors and the other Diplomatic Agents.

Art. 60. He shall appoint the magistrates and all the public servants of the State, according to particular laws.

Art. 61. He shall exercise all the rights which by a grant of the Apostolic See belong to the Monarchy of Sicily.

Art. 62. He shall present to all ecclesiastical benefices of the national patronage to which he is attached a cure of souls, and shall provide for all other ecclesiastical appointments, according to the laws.

Art. 63. The King shall have the power of pardon, and of mitigating, commuting, and remitting punishments, except the cases mentioned in the Constitution and except civil actions. The decree of pardon shall be accompanied with explanations and made public.

Art. 64. The King out of the civil list can create those officers which he may think necessary for the service and dignity of his household. They shall be incompatible with any other situation or office under Government; they shall not confer any privilege, pre-eminence or distinction of rank above the others.

Art. 65. The King in the institution of the offices of his household cannot establish any class, category, or order of person amongst whom the offices are to be conferred.

Art. 66. The King has no other power except those conferred upon him by the statute.

He shall be called "King of the Sicilians in virtue of the Constitution of the kingdom."

PARAGRAPH II.

Of the Ministers.

Art. 67. The King alone shall appoint or dismiss the Ministers.

Art. 68. The Ministers are responsible. They can be tried and punished under the circumstances and according to the manner prescribed by the corres-

ponding law. It shall be lawful for the Parliament to demand an account of their acts, to try them and punish them. The King has not the power to pardon them, or to mitigate, commute, or remit their punishment.

Art. 69. The order of the King whether verbal or in writing shall in no case shield the Ministers from responsibility.

Art. 70. The Ministers shall every year give an account to Parliament of the public expenditure and propose a statement of the expenses which each may think necessary for his department. The Minister of Finance shall give an account of the public income and expenditure and shall propose the budget for the following year.

CHAPTER IV.

OF THE JUDICIAL POWER.

Art. 71. The judicial power shall be exercised by magistrates whose offices are instituted by the law and who are appointed by the King.

The law shall only institute the offices of magistrate and of the ordinary judicial authorities as well civil as criminal, but shall not interfere with ecclesiastical judgments carried on according to the Statute of the Church of Sicily, nor with courts-martial to try soldiers and offences committed against the Military Law, nor other causes of which the Military Penal Statute is bound by especial laws to take cognizance, nor with trials by jury in cases specified by Parliament.

Trial by jury is established in all criminal cases and for political offences whether committed by means of the press or not. In such cases the jury alone can pass sentence upon the amount of damages. No citizen can refuse to be on the jury in criminal cases.

Art. 72. The judicial power shall be independent in the exercise of its functions. Judges shall also be tried according to law and without any particular permission being required. The audience given by magistrates of the Judicial order shall be public.

Art. 73. The High Court of Parliament is composed of the Chamber of Deputies which accuses and the Chamber of Senators which judges.

Art. 74. Ministers and the supreme magistrates of the State may be tried before the High Court of Parliament for anything they may have done in the exercise of their functions according to the case which prescribes the manner of the judgment and the classification of the offence.

Art. 75. Justice shall always be administered in the name of the law.

The execution of justice shall be ordered in the name of the law and of the King.

CHAPTER V.

OF THE OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Art. 76. The National Guard is an essentially constitutional institution. The officers shall be chosen from the Guard itself. It shall be established according to a law to be passed for that purpose.

Art. 77. The National Guard can never be dissolved or suspended by the executive power.

Art. 78. The forts of every city in the kingdom shall be committed to the custody of the National Guard.

The troops of the line may be requested by the local Commandant of the National Guard to perform such service in the forts as may be deemed necessary.

Art. 79. The national troops of all descriptions may not in time of peace exceed the sixth part of the entire National Guard of the kingdom.

Art. 80. Municipal bodies, as far as regards the property of each commune, shall administer their affairs according to the privileges which will be

guaranteed to them by a law to be passed for that purpose. No citizen can refuse to fill the municipal offices, to which no salary is attached, in the commune to which he belongs.

Art. 81. The public health shall be confided to a Supreme Board of Health, which shall be independent of any other power in the exercise of its functions. An especial law shall establish its powers and lay down rules for the good exercise of them.

CHAPTER VI.

OF SICILIANS AND THEIR RIGHTS.

Art. 82. The rights of the Sicilian nationality are gained and lost in the modes prescribed by the civil laws.

Naturalization cannot be granted to an individual without a law being passed for that purpose.

Art. 83. The Sicilians are all equal before the law. They alone, and without any other distinction than that of merit and capacity, shall be admitted to offices, benefices, and pensions, whatever be their nature or character.

Art. 84. There shall be one sole National Order of Merit, as a simple mark of public esteem. This order shall not imply any precedence or privilege. None of the formerly existing orders are recognized.

Art. 85. No citizen can be condemned except in virtue of a law which existed prior to the fact which gives rise to the process and by a regular judgment given by a competent magistrate.

Art. 86. The domicile of the citizens is inviolable. Public authorities cannot penetrate therein for search except under the circumstances and in the manner prescribed by law.

Art. 87. No citizen can be arrested except under the circumstances and in the manner prescribed by law. Every one has the right to resist a public officer who may wish to arrest him or to commit violence upon him by deeds or threats.

Art. 88. There shall be full liberty of speech and of the press. Abusive language and printed libels shall be punished according to law.

Art. 89. Tuition is free. Public tuition shall be gratis and regulated according to law.

Art. 90. Letters are to be considered sacred and inviolable.

Art. 91. It shall be lawful for the citizens to meet together peaceably and unarmed and to treat of matters private or of public interest without any permission at all, subject always to the application of the penal laws for crimes committed in abuse of this privilege.

Art. 92. No one can be deprived of his property except it be for the public good, under the circumstances and in the manner prescribed by law and after the receipt of a previous just indemnification.

Art. 93. Everything which is not forbidden by law is permitted.

The laws which confine the free exercise of national rights do not extend beyond the time and circumstances in them laid down.

CHAPTER VII.

OF THE REVISION OF THE STATUTE.

Art. 94. No article of the Statute can be modified except after a declaration of the Parliament bringing in the proposed reforms. Under such circumstances the Parliament is by law dissolved, and must meet again after a new election.

Neither shall the deliberation proposing the reform or the vote of the new Parliament be efficacious unless passed with the assent of two-thirds of the members present of each Chamber.

CHAPTER VIII.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES.

Art. 95. During the first session the Senators shall divide themselves by lot into three classes, the first shall sit for two years, the second for four, and the third for six.

Art. 96. Those temporal Peers who have the right of sitting according to the Constitution of 1812 and who personally signed the Act of Deposition on April 13th, shall be members for life of the Senate over and above the hundred and twenty.

Art. 97. No Senator can be represented by proxy.

Art. 98. Ruggiero Settimo shall be Senator of right, and for life, with the honours of President of the Chamber of Senators. This position infers no incompatibility with any grade, office, or duty whatever which may be conferred upon him.

Done and discussed at Palermo, the 10th July, 1848.

(Signed) DUKE OF SERRADIFALCO,
President of the Chamber of Peers.

(Signed) MARQUIS OF TORREARSA,
President of the Chamber of Commons.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) DUKE OF SERRADIFALCO,
President of the Chamber of Peers.

No. 274.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 30, 1848.

DURING the last two days the report that the Neapolitan Government have resumed their project of sending an armament against Sicily has acquired so much confirmation that I have thought it right to inquire of Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker what course he would pursue in that contingency; and the Vice-Admiral has informed me that in the absence of instructions from Her Majesty's Government he could not possibly offer any impediment to the execution of such a project.

I also called upon M. de Rayneval, Minister of the French Republic, to ascertain whether his Excellency was in possession of the sentiments of his Government on this subject. M. de Rayneval said that his Government would view with regret the meditated attempt to reduce the Sicilians by force of arms without another effort at accommodation; and he read me a despatch from M. de Bastide in that sense, as well as some very judicious notes of a conversation he had already had with Prince Cariati deprecating the intended expedition. He promised to renew his verbal representations, and he this morning acquainted me he had framed a letter to Prince Cariati to the purport proposed.

I could not on my part do more than transmit to Prince Cariati the inclosed letter, which I hope will be found to express the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government while it can scarcely be thought to trench on that freedom of action which the Government of His Sicilian Majesty may deem themselves entitled to claim in the prosecution of their views upon Sicily.

Sir William Parker having agreed with me in thinking that Her Majesty's Consular Agents in Sicily should have the earliest information of the approaching enterprise, Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Porcupine" proceeded last night

to Messina and Palermo, where the proper arrangements will be made in conjunction with the officers of Her Majesty's ships of war at those stations, for the protection of Her Majesty's subjects and their interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 274.

Lord Napier to Prince Cariatì.

Excellency,

Naples, August 29, 1848.

INTELLIGENCE having reached Her Britannic Majesty's Legation in common with those of other foreign countries at this Court, that it is the intention of the Government of His Sicilian Majesty to dispatch an armament for the reconquest of Sicily, I shall venture to submit to your Excellency the following reflections, which I trust will be accepted in the amicable spirit by which they are dictated and be deemed not undeserving of your Excellency's benevolent consideration.

It cannot be unknown to your Excellency, both from general report and from the sources of official information at Paris and London, that the Governments of Great Britain and France are engaged in a common mediation which has for its object the pacification of Italy and the consolidation of those relations of friendship between the Italian States and the Austrian Empire which have been of late so unhappily ruptured, a temporary suspension of hostilities having been already effected through the friendly offices of the Representatives of Her Britannic Majesty at Turin and at Florence. It may consequently be hoped that under the auspices of two powerful nations the peace of Italy and of Europe is about to be restored in a manner which will reconcile the interests and pretensions of hostile Powers and rival parties, and establish the prosperity of the Italians on a durable basis.

The deplorable contest which has of late prevailed between the Government of Naples and the inhabitants of the Island of Sicily is indeed of a separate and peculiar character, and has hitherto resisted the several expedients which have been employed to bring it to a peaceful solution; but your Excellency will remember that the united advice and authority of the Governments of Great Britain and France have never hitherto been applied in concert to the questions at issue, and their influence could not fail, if exercised, to have the greatest weight with the leaders at Palermo, while it might certainly be beneficially employed for the interests of His Sicilian Majesty.

I am not at the present moment empowered to convey to your Excellency the suggestions of my Government on this subject, but I am under the strong impression that it attracts their serious attention in common with that of the Government of the French Republic. I have found that the Envoy of the latter Power participates in this opinion, and I feel convinced that Her Britannic Majesty's Government would deprecate and deeply deplore the effusion of blood which must accompany the premature recommencement of hostilities while any means have been left untried to bring the conflict to a settlement by negotiation.

It may consequently appear neither unworthy of the wisdom and clemency of the Government of His Sicilian Majesty nor inconsistent with His Majesty's rights and honour to pause, and, before putting his cause irrevocably to the chances of war, to ascertain the sentiments of the Governments of Great Britain and France, who in their benevolent scheme for the pacification of Italy have certainly not omitted the consideration of the Sicilian Revolution.

Your Excellency, in authorizing an enterprise for so arduous an object as the subjugation of the powerful party at present predominant in Sicily, has doubtless weighed the probability of success, the forces at the disposal of the Neapolitan Government, and the means of resistance on the opposite side.

I need therefore scarcely enlarge on the dangers to be apprehended from a lengthened contest, the sacrifice of human life, and the sufferings unavoidably inflicted, still less on the deplorable results which would probably ensue in the

contingency of failure, the permanent exasperation of parties already unreasonably inflamed, and the close of every avenue to ultimate reconciliation.

In submitting these observations to your Excellency, I would disclaim all intention of thrusting upon the Government of His Sicilian Majesty imperious or unseasonable counsels, and if I have touched upon a question which but indirectly regards the Government of which I am the Representative, your Excellency will find my motives in the ancient intimacy which has subsisted between our respective countries and the active part which the Envoy of Her Britannic Majesty was very lately called to take in the affairs of Naples and Sicily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 275.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 30, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note to his Excellency Prince Cariati, containing copy of correspondence which passed between Captain Robb of Her Majesty's steam-ship "Gladiator," and General Pronio, Commandant of the citadel of Messina, relative to the unprovoked and barbarous bombardment of an unoffending portion of that town, on the 21st and 22nd instant, by which several women and children lost their lives, and a poor Ionian boy was grievously wounded.

The explanation of the Minister of War transmitted herewith is in the highest degree unsatisfactory and indicative of the atrocity with which the approaching hostilities will too probably be prosecuted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 275.

Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.

Naples, August 23, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., with reference to his previous letter on the same subject to his Excellency the Prince of Cariati, &c., has now the honour to inclose herewith for his Excellency's information, an official despatch from Captain Robb, of Her Britannic Majesty's steam-ship "Gladiator," to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, with a copy of a correspondence between him and General Pronio, descriptive of the late inhuman and unprovoked bombardment of the town of Messina, which has caused the death or wounding of several innocent persons, mostly women and children, at the public fountains, and among others of an Ionian boy, whose leg has been amputated.

The Undersigned cannot recognize the justice of the reason pleaded by the Neapolitan Commandant in vindication of this singular cruelty, which was not provoked by any act on the part of the Sicilians which could justify an attack upon an unoffending quarter of the town, and which was perpetrated without a moment's warning, in violation of both humanity and custom, which alike enjoin that previous to a promiscuous bombardment advice should be granted to foreigners and unoffending persons to proceed beyond the reach of danger.

The Undersigned trusts that on being made acquainted with these particulars, the Neapolitan Government will cause instructions to be given that the war, if prosecuted, may be carried on in a civilized spirit and with due regard to the persons and property of Her Majesty's subjects, and to the safety of women and children and other persons who are not capable of offence or of any active resistance to the troops of His Sicilian Majesty.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 275.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"*Gladiator*," Messina, August 23, 1848.

SINCE my letter of the 18th instant I have been engaged in correspondence with the Commodore of the Neapolitan force at Reggio, relative to the detention of a Maltese vessel. On the 21st instant a shell burst in the town and killed and wounded several people, most of them children.

It is difficult to account for this act of cruelty from the citadel and Don Blasco, as no firing has taken place from any part of the Sicilian batteries.

On the evening of the 21st a Neapolitan steamer grounded outside the lighthouse where she still remains; I sent an officer to offer assistance but it was declined. Three steam-vessels have been engaged in assisting her but they have not succeeded, but as the water has been smooth I think she may be got off.

On the morning of the 22nd the Sicilian battery of Mare Grosso opened fire on the steam-frigate on shore, which was silenced by Don Blasco and the citadel. In the course of the day, without any apparent motive or provocation, but apparently from a true spirit of revenge, the citadel fired several shot and shell into the town which had from the Armistice of the 2nd May remained tranquil.

Mostly women and children are said to be the victims of this vindictive proceeding, and one British subject, an Ionian boy, has been dangerously wounded, and his leg amputated by the surgeon of this ship.

In consequence of this being reported to me by Her Majesty's Consul, I wrote a letter to General Pronio on the subject which I inclose, and this morning have received an answer on the subject, which I also inclose, not having time to translate it.

I see nothing in a military point of view that can justify the firing into an unarmed town to which the inhabitants and foreign residents had returned, relying on the faith of the armistice having been prolonged, and not a shot or shell having been fired into the town for several months until two days ago, and that without any other apparent cause than a feeling of disappointment that the Sicilians had taken all the guns from the arsenal under the fire of the citadel.

I shall reply to the letter of General Pronio on the broad pleading of humanity, and I can scarcely believe that an officer will wantonly add to the horrors of war by a proceeding so contrary to the clemency which may be expected from the King of Naples and his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ROBB.

Inclosure 3 in No. 275.

Captain Robb to General Pronio.

Sir,

"*Gladiator*," Messina, August 22, 1848.

I HAVE this day been informed by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at this place that a British subject resident here (whilst quietly following his peaceful profession) has been severely wounded this morning by a shot or shell fired from the citadel on the Marina.

Such an act of wanton cruelty as that of firing on an unarmed town, and on its peaceful and innocent inhabitants quietly engaged in the prosecution of their domestic duties, without any warlike attack or demonstration on their part, or any pretension or warning on that of your Excellency (circumstances so contrary to the common rules of civilized warfare), cannot be viewed with any other feeling than that of execration by the whole of the civilized world.

Since the commencement of the armistice agreed on between the Neapolitans and the Sicilians of the 2nd of May, in which it was stipulated that until the 20th of that month no hostility should take place between them,—and by the 9th article of that armistice the renewal of hostilities was to have been preceded by a notice of eight days by either party after that period had expired, no actual hostility had taken place, nor had there been any firing into the town, except the firing on any new works, offensive or defensive, which had been erected by the Sicilians, and upon the Arsenal, until the present period, when

the private houses on the Marina and the unarmed buildings in the town have been fired upon.

Relying on the faith of this armistice which had been so much prolonged beyond the period at which it was to have expired, and the renewal of hostilities (except in the cases above mentioned) not having taken place, and trusting in the assurance that the town would not be bombarded without giving sufficient warning to foreigners and others to withdraw themselves and property from it, the foreign inhabitants returned to their habitations in the town and have been peacefully following their avocations for their last three months without interfering in any way with the contest going on between the Neapolitans and Sicilians.

I leave it to your Excellency to imagine with what degree of horror and dismay they have beheld the faith which they placed in your Excellency violated by the shot and shells which have been fired into the town yesterday and to-day, and which have killed and wounded so many people, without your having used the common courtesy due to neutral and friendly nations of warning them of your intention, so as to have afforded them sufficient notice to remove from a scene of danger and bloodshed.

In your Excellency's letters of the 25th and 28th of February, addressed to my predecessor here, you deprecate the useless shedding of blood as injurious to the Crown, the country, and the common cause of humanity; yet in opposition to these sentiments, shot and shell have been fired into the unarmed parts of the town without warning, and apparently without any provocation or any justifiable motive.

Having preserved the most rigid neutrality throughout the unfortunate civil contest that has been so long carried on between the Sicilians and Neapolitans, and feeling most solicitous to prevent the further effusion of human blood, I would without in any way dictating to your Excellency, beg you to consider how far the cause of His Majesty the King of Naples may be promoted by the bombardment of an unarmed town, the destruction of the lives of innocent women and children, and the exasperation and excitement which such a proceeding may have on the minds of the people which were so lately your fellow-subjects and brothers.

In the appeal I thus make to your Excellency I beg to be excused from any intention of dictating; but the circumstance of the blood of a British subject having been thus wantonly shed without any warning or pretence whatsoever, renders my remonstrance on your Excellency's conduct absolutely necessary; and the explanation which must be made from the Neapolitan Government on this, and the circumstances which I shall forward to the Commander-in-chief, must place a heavy responsibility on the head of the perpetrator of it.

I beg to request you will be pleased to acquaint me whether it is your Excellency's intention to continue the bombardment of the town, in order that the British residents may remove from it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ROBB.

Inclosure 4 in No. 275.

General Pronio to Captain Robb.

Signore,

Cittadella di Messina, li 22 Agosto, 1848.

ECCELE il riscontro al suo generalissimo foglio di pari data, che ha creduto d'indirizzarmi, riscontro che avrebbe avuto subito, se il suo messo avesse atteso alquanto minuti.

Io rivestito da ben sei mesi del comando di una piazza forte in istato eccezionale di assedio, ho dei doveri ad adempiere in grande sfera verso l'augusto mio Sovrano, verso la nazione, verso l'armata, verso me stesso, doveri dettati dall'arte della guerra, della storia, dalle convenzioni sociali.

Questa mane la cittadella non ha avuto iniziativa di fuochi, essa è stata provocata dalla parte avversa che ha tratto proiettili contro una fregata a vapore di Sua Maestà il Re mio Signore, colpita jeri dalla sventura di urto su questa spaggia, e contro lavoratori militari che si adopravano a soccorrerla.

Il trarre dalla cittadella è stato conseguente come lo è stato sempre ai prin-

cipj di difesa e di dignità militare, non scompagnati nè ora nè mai da quei tratti di estesissima generosità che partono dalla clemenza del mio Re.

Qual sia stato quegli che ha rotto l'armistizio del 2 Maggio scorso lo sa il Governo del Re delle Due Sicilie, lo sa il paese, lo sanno gli esteri. La rottura ebbe effetto la notte del 5 Giugno ultimo.

Il denunziare a lei, anche che lo volessi, la mia condotta futura è un impossibile, perchè non conosco le impenenze che potranno presentarsi ai miei doveri puramente militari.

I sudditi ed i cittadini delle nazioni estere hanno scienza esatta, precisa, positiva, che questa cittadella trovasi dal 29 Gennajo ultimo in istato permanente di guerra, sanno pure che la guerra è un flagello, e non può essere diversamente definita. Eglino in conseguenza hanno potuto e saputo come possono e sanno regolare la condotta che deggino tenere per tutelare se stessi ed i loro interessi.

Il suo foglio è stato già originalmente rimesso al Ministro della Guerra del Re mio Signore.

Gradisca intanto, &c.

(Firmato) PAOLO PRONIO

(Translation.)

Sir,

Messina, August 22, 1848.

HERE is the answer to your letter of this day's date which you did me the honour to address to me, and which you would have had immediately if your messenger had waited a few minutes.

I who have been invested for full six months with the command of a fortress in an exceptional state of siege, have duties to perform in a large sphere towards the august person of my Sovereign, towards the nation, towards the army, towards myself, duties dictated to me by the art of war, by history, and by the conventions of social life.

This morning the citadel did not take the initiative in the fire, it was provoked by the opposite party, who threw projectiles at a steam-frigate belonging to the King my master, which experienced the calamity of running ashore yesterday on this coast, and at military workmen who were employed in getting her off.

The firing from the citadel was in accordance as it has always been with the principles of defence and of military dignity, nor was it divested either in this case or ever of those marks of most extensive generosity which spring from the clemency of my King.

Who it was that broke the armistice of May 2nd is well known to the Government of the King of the Two Sicilies, to the nation, and to foreigners. The rupture took place on the night of June 5th.

The pointing out to you, even were I so disposed, my future line of conduct, would be an impossibility, as I am ignorant what emergencies may call into play my purely military duties.

The subjects and citizens of foreign nations have had exact, precise, and positive knowledge that this citadel from the 29th of January last has been in a perpetual state of war; they know also that war is a scourge and cannot be otherwise defined, and therefore they have been able and have known how, as they are able and do know how to regulate their conduct so as to protect themselves and their affairs.

Your letter has already been transmitted in the original to the Minister of War of the King my master.

(Signed)

PAOLO PRONIO.

Inclosure 5 in No. 275.

Prince d'Ischitella to Prince Cariati.

Eccellenza,

Napoli, 29 Agosto, 1848.

IL ricevimento del pregiato suo foglio in data de' 26 del cadente mese No. 448, era stato preceduto da quello de' rapporti a me indirizzati dal Generale Pronio, Comandante della cittadella di Messina su gli avvenimenti del dì 22 i questo stesso mese, a' quali si rapportano le reclamazioni del Comandante della corvetta a vapore Inglese nella rada di quelle piazze.

Ed attentamente esaminata la condotta tenuta dal Generale Pronio, ho dovuto convincermi che il torto non era dalla parte sua.

E un fatto costante che l'iniziativa del trarre a fuoco non è stata mai dal Comandante della cittadella. Il di lui dovera gl' imponeva e gl' imporrà sempre di ribattere le offese, rispondendo al fuoco dei Siciliani, sia contro gli attacchi immediati, sia contro quelli mediati con la costruzione di opere di oppugnatione. Siffatta condotta è la più moderata per un comandante di piazza in istato d'assedio.

Quindi se in un conflitto, cagionato sempre da' Siciliani, qualche danno possa mai prodursi per gli abitanti di Messina nazionali od esteri, o pe' loro interessi, non potrà ne' limiti di giustizia farsi carico al Comandante della cittadella, ma sebbene a' Siciliani, i quali ne sono i provocatori. Lo avvenimento de' 22 n'è una pruova luminosa. Una fregata a vapore di Sua Maestà è colpita da un grave disastro, investe su la spiaggia. In simili casi presso tutte le nazioni incivilite si confondono insieme, amici e nemici, per la salvezza de' naufraghi. La cittadella spedì una quantità di gente in ajuto dell' equipaggio della fregata, ed i Siciliani lungi dallo imitare l'esempio, od almeno limitarsi ad esserne spettatori passivi, traggono con cannoni e fucili contro i pericolanti e gli uomini corsi in ajuto. A questo tratto di vera barbaria dovevano forse zittire le batterie della cittadella? Dovevano esse lasciar consumare dal naufragio e dal fuoco nemico e l'equipaggio ed i soccorrenti? E se qualche colpo ha prodotto alcun danno alla città od agli abitanti di essa, dovrà incolparsi il Comandante della cittadella? L'ammettere ciò sarebbe un assurdo. Altrettante dovrà dir i per ogni altra volta, che la cittadella è stata obbligata a manifestare le sue forze. Non può navigare del Faro un legno da guerra di Sua Maestà, non un bastimento di commercio de' pacifici abitanti del continente, non una barca, senza che i Siciliani non traggono a fuoco su di essi, e non si mettano in moto per farne cattura. Sarebbe incontestabilmente un fallo gravissimo pel Comandante se gagliardamente non vi oppugnasse. I Siciliani non lasciano di erigere opere di campagna contro la cittadella, e questa non può per dovere trascurarne le demolizioni. Ora se in cotali conflitti gli abitanti di Messina van soggetti a pericoli o a danni, non può trarsi ragionevolmente la conseguenza che ne abbia colpa il Comandante delle cittadella.

Da ultimo, sono già corsi sette mesi da che, notoriamente per l'Europa tutta, la cittadella di Messina è in istato di vero assedio. La posizione topografica di essa rende impossibile che nei conflitti di difesa e di oppugnatione la città di Messina non abbia a patirne danno, quale ne sia la moderazione del Generale che la difende, e per vero quella del Generale Pronio è somma. Quindi gli abitanti di Messina deggiono esservi preparati, o nazionali o stranieri che fossero, adottare provvedimenti valevoli a sottrarsene od almeno a garantirsi per quanto è possibile.

Mi faccia la grazia, vostra Eccellenza, di ponderare le osservazioni che ho avuto l'onore di esporle qui sopra, e rivestendole delle forme che stimerà proprie al soggetto, e modificandole ancora, ove lo crederà opportuno trarne dal complesso di esse il riscontro che attende Lord Napier, Incaricato di Affari Britannico.

Il Ministro Segretario di Stato di Guerra e Marina,
(Firmato) PRINPE. D'ISCHITELLA.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Naples, August 29, 1848.

THE reports of General Pronio, Commander of the citadel of Messina, respecting the facts which took place on the 22nd of this month, to which the complaints of the Commander of the English steam-corvette there anchored have reference, reached me before I had received your Excellency's despatch No. 448 of the 26th instant, and having carefully considered the conduct of General Pronio, I am convinced that he is not in fault.

It is a certain fact that the Commander of the citadel has upon no occasion taken the initiative in firing. His duty obliged him and always will oblige him to repel offence by answering the fire of the Sicilians, whether in open attack or from works thrown up against him.

Such conduct is the most moderate that can be expected from a besieged Commander; therefore if in the course of a conflict, which has always been originated by the Sicilians, some loss may occur to the inhabitants of Messina, whether foreigners or no, the blame cannot certainly be laid with justice on the Commander of the citadel, but rather on the Sicilians who are the aggressors, of which the occurrence of the 22nd is a clear proof. A steam-frigate belonging to His Majesty the King was visited with a heavy calamity and ran ashore. In similar cases amongst all civilized nations, enemies and friends are mingled together in procuring the salvation of the shipwrecked. The citadel sent a quantity of persons to help the crew, but the Sicilians so far from imitating their example or from contenting themselves with being spectators in the affair, fired cannon and guns at the persons in danger and the persons who had rushed to their assistance. Upon this evidence of true barbarity on the part of the Sicilians, ought the batteries of the citadel perchance to have been silent and have allowed the crew and their assistants to have been consumed by shipwreck and by the enemy's fire? and if some shot may by chance have done harm to the town or its inhabitants, ought the Commander to be blamed? Such an admission would be an absurdity.

As much could also be said for every other time when the citadel has been obliged to show its force. Not a single war-steamer belonging to His Majesty can pass the Faro, no merchant-ship belonging to the peaceful inhabitants of the continent, nor even a boat, without the Sicilians firing at it and coming out to try to capture it. It would be most blameable on the part of the Commander if he did not effectually oppose them. The Sicilians are perpetually erecting field-works against the citadel, which is in duty bound to demolish them; if therefore the inhabitants of Messina in these conflicts sometimes suffer loss, the Commander of the citadel cannot be blamed.

Lastly, seven months have now elapsed, in which it is well known to Europe at large that the citadel of Messina has been in a state of siege.

The topographical position of the citadel renders it impossible that the town should not suffer much during an engagement, however great may be the moderation of the General commanding the fort, and the moderation of General Pronio is most remarkable. Therefore the inhabitants of Messina, whether native or foreign, must be prepared to take those precautions for their own safety which they may deem advisable.

I hope your Excellency will have the goodness to consider the observations I have had the honour to lay before you, and after putting them into what shape you may think best or even modifying them, will form your answer to the British Chargé d'Affaires from the sentiments which I have expressed.

The Minister Secretary of State of War and Marine,
(Signed) PRINCE OF ISCHITELLA.

No. 276.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)

(Extract.)

Naples, August 31, 1848.

HAVING yesterday heard from a private source that the Sardinian Minister had made to the Neapolitan Government an official communication of the Duke of Genoa's refusal to accept the Crown of Sicily, I immediately called on his Excellency and inquired of him whether such were true.

Count Colobiano acquainted me that he had merely stated that he believed such would be the case, on the strength of an unofficial letter from the late Sardinian Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Pareto, part of which he read to me, and which was to this effect:—the Minister "believed he could inform Count Colobiano on good foundation, that the Duke of Genoa had declined the Sicilian Crown." The letter was dated the 10th of August; no subsequent intimation had reached the Sardinian Legation in a similar sense; and Prince Cariati last night stated to Count Colobiano, who consulted him on the subject at my request, that he had no conclusive official intimation of His Royal Highness's resolution from the Neapolitan Legation at Turin. In the absence of intelligence from Mr. Abercromby on this subject I do not feel empowered to state to the Sicilians that their overtures have been finally declined at the Court of Turin.

Last week no intelligence after the lapse of more than a month had reached Palermo of the Duke of Genoa's intentions; and this delay coupled with the impending disaster of a Neapolitan invasion must prove a severe blow to the Monarchical party, and give a signal advantage to their antagonists the Republicans.

No. 277.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 31, 1848.

THE Neapolitan flotilla of nine steam-vessels left the port during the afternoon of yesterday, having on board a force of 2,500 Swiss and a powerful train of artillery.

It is believed they will embark about 20,000 men at Reggio and effect a landing at Milazzo and Scaletta to the west and south of Messina, but the designs of the Neapolitan Government are as yet very imperfectly known.

General Filangieri has embarked and will take the command of the expedition.

The navy is placed under the orders of Brigadier Cavalcante.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 278.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord,

Naples, September 4, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's instructions of the 5th ultimo relating to the employment of Her Majesty's ensign by the Neapolitan steam vessel of war "Stromboli" in the capture of two Sicilian vessels off Corfu.

I have imparted your Lordship's despatch to Prince Cariati and left it in his hands for the information of his Excellency's colleagues; but as Sir William Parker professes himself satisfied with the result of the inquiries instituted by the Lord High Commissioner, and as the Neapolitan Government have given a promise to abandon the practice of hoisting the British flag for purposes of deception on condition that the Sicilians be directed to do the same, I have not

thought it necessary without your Lordship's orders to take any further steps in the matter.

The accompanying despatch from Mr. Goodwin will acquaint your Lordship that the Sicilian Government have agreed without difficulty to forbid the use of the English flag in the manner above mentioned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 278.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, August 27, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of 23rd August, directing me to call on M. Stabile and acquaint him that the Neapolitan Government having declared their intention of abandoning the practice of hoisting Her Majesty's ensign for purposes of deception, your Lordship had stated to the Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs that a declaration to the same effect would be requested of the Government of Sicily.

In conformity to your Lordship's directions I have called on the Marchese Torrecarsa, M. Stabile's successor, read to him your Lordship's despatch and obtained from him a verbal assurance that the required declaration shall be readily made.

The official communication will be made to-morrow, the answer to which will reach me in time for the next French steamer from Messina to Naples.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 279.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord,

Naples, September 4, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith a despatch from Mr. Goodwin, relative to the new Sicilian Constitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 279.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, August 28, 1848.

THE principal changes effected by the Fundamental Statute of 1848 in the Constitution of 1812 are four, viz.:

1. The substitution of being able to read and write for the possession of a rental in the case of electors.
2. The introduction of a class qualification (or else the possession of a rental) in the case of deputies and senators:
3. The conversion of the Chamber of Peers from an hereditary into an elective assembly; and
4. The institution of a National Guard, of which the Constitution of 1812 offers no example.

1. Under the Constitution of 1812 the representative of a district was chosen by electors having a rental of 9*l.* each per annum: the representatives of Palermo by electors having a rental of 25*l.* each, and the representative of all other cities and towns by electors having a rental of 9*l.* each as in the case of districts. By the Fundamental Statute of 1848 the money qualification is done away with, and the reading and writing test alone is applied to all males of twenty-one.

The number of electors registered in Palermo, the population of which is above 150,000, was 3,034 only, of whom 2,836 gave in their votes.

The electors were for the most part substantial citizens who had contributed from their purses to carry on the war and set up the Government. The election, which was by ballot, was conducted throughout in the quietest and most orderly manner by the civil and ecclesiastical authorities.

2. Under the Constitution of 1812 representatives of districts were required to have a rental of 150*l.* per annum each, those of Palermo one of 250*l.* and those of all other cities or towns one of 75*l.* By the Fundamental Statute of 1848 the money qualification is reduced to 9*l.* per annum for all classes of representatives, and the class qualification is introduced.

The classes are nine; viz.:—1. Professors of Universities; 2. Members of National Societies; 3. Members of Academies for Literature, Science, and the Arts; 4. Advocates and Physicians; 5. Attorneys and Apothecaries; 6. Merchants and Bankers; and 7. Artists and Schoolmasters. The present Chamber of Commons contains members of most of these classes. Lawyers hold the first rank in point of number and civil functionaries in point of talent; influence is pretty equally divided between the two. Landlords, editors, and ecclesiastics form a third class, which hold the balance even between the two sections.

3. Under the Constitution of 1812 the Chamber of Peers consisted of all the Lords spiritual and temporal who had composed the military and ecclesiastical arms of the ancient Parliament then recently superseded. The Lords spiritual consisted of 61 Prelates and the Lords temporal of 124 Barons, making in all 185. Forty-eight spiritual and 75 temporal peerages having become vacant or extinct since 1812 there remained in 1848 only 13 spiritual and 49 temporal peerages. Sixty-two being too small a number for legislation it was resolved to add 30 to the number of spiritual and 18 to that of temporal peerages, by drawing churchmen and laymen from the Commons. The resolution was carried out, and the number of Lords spiritual was thus raised to 43 and that of temporal to 61. The amount of 110 thus obtained has been found barely sufficient for dispatch of business. Thirty Members are a quorum for the Peers and 60 for the Commons, numbers which are sometimes got together with difficulty.

The Chamber of Peers is destined to be superseded by a Chamber of Senators chosen by the same electors who are to choose the Chamber of Deputies by which the Chamber of Commons is to be replaced. The Senators are to be members of nine classes of persons, viz.:—1. Ex-Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Chamber of Deputies; 2. Ex-Deputies of two Legislatures standing; 3. Ex-Diplomatists; 4. Ex-Under-Secretaries of State; 5. Prelates; 6. Professors of Universities; 7. Fellows of the Institutes; 8. Professional men having an income of 100*l.* a-year each; and 9. Landlords having a rental of 250*l.* each.

It had been provided by the Constitution of 1812 that new Peers might be made by ennobling persons of 3000*l.* per annum each. This provision, however efficacious in 1812 when some such wealthy Commoners existed, proved futile in 1848, when owing to the abolition of primogeniture and the more equal division of property such persons had disappeared altogether. It remained only to lower the qualification immensely and to bring in a set of persons whose social rank was equal to that of the highest nobility. This has accordingly been done with the full concurrence of all parties.

4. The National Guard is an institution entirely new. The middle classes whose purses supplied the sinews of war now contribute with their persons to uphold the Government in arms. Composed of citizens of all ranks, the National Guard bears a strong likeness to the volunteer corps and the local militia by which England was so efficiently defended during the last war. It differs from the latter in a single feature, its officers are chosen by the rank and file instead of being nominated by the provincial authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 11.)

(Extract.)

Naples, September 4, 1848.

THE Government of Sicily have resolved to accredit an Envoy to Paris and London for the purpose of requesting the intervention and succour of the Cabinets of Great Britain and France.

This Envoy was granted a passage to Naples on board Her Majesty's steam-vessel "*Porcupine*," and Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker has afforded him the means of proceeding with the greatest expedition on his journey by dispatching the same vessel to Marseilles direct, which will also convey the Vice-Admiral's correspondence and several officers of the squadron who are returning to England.

I regret to observe that he is not charged to propose any terms of reconciliation or compromise, and he asserts in the most positive manner that the Sicilian nation will have recourse to every means, however desperate, rather than submit to the restoration of King Ferdinand or to the appointment of his son as an independent Sovereign, alleging that the latter expedient, however fair and promising, would merely be the commencement of a train of intrigues and usurpations which would tend to the introduction of a foreign army, foreign Ministers, and the restoration of arbitrary power.

He was also commissioned to prevail on Sir William Parker to interfere with the view of arresting the continuation of hostilities, and is apparently disappointed at the Vice-Admiral's refusal to take any active part without instructions; but I have endeavoured to explain to him that the declarations of Her Majesty's Government are confined to a prospective and conditional recognition of the future King of Sicily, and could not be construed into any promise of armed assistance or guarantee of its independence.

I am bound to state to your Lordship that if the Sicilians are unprepared to offer any concessions, the Neapolitan Government are equally unyielding. The King has never through Her Majesty's Legation or by any other channel proposed to send his son to Sicily as independent Sovereign, and I believe His Majesty's design has always been to subdue the island by force of arms and incorporate it entirely with Naples.

Count Chreptowitch assures me that a separate Constitution and Parliament would be freely conceded, and I am not enabled to say that such might not under certain circumstances prove the case, but the Neapolitan Government have neither in their proclamations nor as far as I can learn by private means, ever made corresponding overtures in Sicily, and it would be foolish for the Sicilians to act upon hints of good intentions and rumours of vague proposals.

By the last French steam-vessel from Genoa there arrived M. Alliata and two of the Sicilian Commissioners to the Court of Turin, who convey the decided impression that the Duke of Genoa will decline the offer of the Crown of Sicily, but they are not charged with any conclusive and official announcement of His Royal Highness's refusal.

Inclosure in No. 280.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, August 31, 1848.

THE last advices from Turin, 19th August, have excited fears of an untoward result with respect to the offer of the Crown. The Agents of Ferdinand, who are desirous to secure the Crown to his second son, have redoubled their activity with some success in the Peers, but with little if any in the Commons. The latter seem to be unanimous in scouting the notion, and to be ready to offer the Crown to Tuscany should it be declined by Savoy, at the risk of provoking an invasion rather than restore the Bourbons, to whom they bear an inveterate hatred.

No. 281.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 11.)

(Extract.)

Naples, September 4, 1848.

THE French steam-vessel which arrived here this morning from the southward has brought intelligence from Messina of yesterday's date.

The Neapolitians had landed in the citadel 3,500 men, comprising a body of Swiss, and disembarked on the adjoining shore about 5000 more for the attack of the defences of the city. The bombardment had continued for several hours and was directed chiefly towards the interior of the town. The trenches answered with great briskness, and no result, according to Captain Robb's account, was as yet apparent, though he did not expect the Sicilians could maintain such an unequal contest.

A numerous force of steamers and gun-boats had not been able to take any active part in the assault, being forced to retire by four pieces of Sicilian artillery drawn to the beach to oppose their approach, and the courage of the populace had risen to such a pitch of enthusiasm that it was impossible to witness their efforts without deep emotion and sympathy. The streets were barricaded and mined, and all ranks and classes of either sex seemed animated by an equal spirit of resistance and prepared to die under the ruins.

The country folk had risen in arms and either poured into the besieged city, or formed in groups along the shores to watch the proceedings, and hailed the French steam-vessel as it passed along with shouts and salutations.

As the regular means of communication with Messina will not occur again for ten days, I shall suggest to Sir William Parker the expediency of sending down one of Her Majesty's steam-vessels for subsequent information.

The inclosed despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Messina contains an official notification of the recommencement of hostilities on the part of the Neapolitan forces.

Her Majesty's subjects had embarked on board the "*Gladiator*."

Inclosure 1 in No. 281.

Consul Barker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Gladiator," Messina, September 3, 1848.

THE troops are attempting and I believe have partly effected a landing on the south side of the citadel.

The castle and Fort Salvatore are bombarding the town in every direction. The fire is most awful and chiefly directed against the dwelling-houses.

The Sicilians are keeping up a brisk fire. I received the inclosed late last night.

I have, &c.
For W. W. BARKER,
(Signed) ROBT. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 281.

Notice to Foreigners to quit the Maritime Towns of Sicily

Reggio, 1 Settembre, 1848.

PREVENZIONE tanto pe' Signori Consoli delle nazioni straniere residenti nelle città marittime di Sicilia, quanto pe' commercianti e viaggiatori delle stesse rispettive nazioni, che nelle città suddette domiciliassero, o si trovassero di passaggio nel principio del mese di Settembre 1848.

Se per esecuzione degli ordini ricevuti, le Reali truppe Napoletane dovessero rioccupare talune delle città marittime di Sicilia, e che in ciò fare, trovassero resistenza per parte degli abitanti, il che obbligherebbe allo impiego di tutt' i

mezzi che l'arte della guerra somministra, nel tanto succedere, le persone e le proprietà di taluno de' suddetti stranieri potrebbero pericollare, sono essi col presente avvertimento prevenuti di allontanarsi dalle suddette città, qualora non vogliano correre i pericoli soprammentovati.

Per ordine, &c.

(Firmato) CARLO PICCENNA,
Tenente-Colonnello.

(Translation.)

Reggio, September 1, 1848.

NOTICE to the Foreign Consuls resident in the maritime cities of Sicily as well as to merchants or travellers domiciled in the said cities or passing through them in the beginning of the month of September 1848.

If in pursuance of orders received the Neapolitan troops shall retake possession of some of the maritime cities of Sicily, and if in so doing they should meet with resistance on the part of the inhabitants which should oblige them to take such steps as the art of war points out, under these circumstances it might happen that the persons and properties of foreigners might be in danger, and they are hereby warned to leave the said cities if they do not wish to incur the dangers above mentioned.

By order, &c.

Signed: CARLO PICCENNA,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

No. 282.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord,

Naples, September 4, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of two instructions to Mr. Goodwin relative to the departure of the Neapolitan expedition for the reduction of Sicily, and of three reports from Her Majesty's Consul respecting the state of public feeling and the disposition of the Ministers and Parliament, in the contingency of the refusal of the Crown of Sicily by the Duke of Genoa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclasure 1 in No. 228.

Lord Napier to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Naples, August 29, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the 23rd instant, dated by mistake on the 24th, by Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Porcupine."

You will oblige me by conveying to the Marquis of Torrearsa my thanks for his obliging communication which I have transmitted to Her Majesty's Government.

It is my painful duty to impart to you the intelligence that the Neapolitan Government have to all appearance at last resolved to dispatch an armament to attempt the reduction of Sicily.

The preparations have been carried on with great secrecy and activity, and it is believed that the expedition may set out in the course of to-night or to-morrow.

It is said that eleven regiments will be embarked, comprising two of the Swiss mercenary force, and it may be presumed that the Neapolitan Government will draw upon the army in Calabria to a greater amount, but I am unable to state to you with certainty either the number or the destination of the

troops devoted to this service, as in my last instruction I somewhat inadvertently stated that I did not apprehend any active effort on the part of Naples. At the present time I authorize you to communicate the preceding particulars to the Sicilian Government and you will forward the same to Her Majesty's Consular Agents at the outports with the greatest expedition, in order that they may take the proper steps for the protection of Her Majesty's subjects and interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 282.

Lord Napier to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Naples, August 31, 1848.

I AVAIL myself of the dispatch of a French steam-vessel to Palermo to inform you of the departure of the Neapolitan expedition comprising nine steam-vessels and a frigate with 2,500 Swiss and a train of artillery, which it is reported will effect a landing at Milazzo and at Scaletto to the west and south of Messina, for the purpose of attacking that city. I cannot however vouch for the truth of this intelligence, the destination of the armament having been kept a profound secret.

I have been unable to procure any certain information of the intention of His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa in regard to the Crown of Sicily.

The Sardinian Minister has shown me an unofficial letter from his Government of the 10th instant, stating his belief that the Duke had declined the Sicilian overtures, and the Neapolitan Government has reports to the same effect from Turin, but as yet nothing perfectly conclusive. Should the Sicilian Government possess any intelligence to the same effect you will oblige me by acquainting me with it, and in that contingency you will place my services at the disposal of Marquis Torrearsa, should he in this new conjuncture of affairs deem it fit to enter upon any negotiation or proposal with the Government of Naples.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 282.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, August 31, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of 29th August acquainting me with the approaching departure of the Neapolitan expedition, and authorizing me to communicate the fact to the Sicilian Government and the British Vice-Consuls. Hastening to the Segreteria I have communicated the intelligence to the President and the Council of Ministers, by whom it was received with dignity and fortitude. I then called together the British merchants and read to them your Lordship's despatch, whereupon they charged me with the task of ascertaining what accommodation can be afforded on board the "Odin" for themselves and families.

Lastly, I communicated the substance of your Lordship's despatch in writing to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who begged me to obtain a passage to Naples on board the "Porcupine" for the Envoy to England.

I shall send circulars by to-night's post to all the Vice-Consuls, save those of Catania and Syracuse, to put them on their guard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 282.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, September 2, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 31st August, acquainting me with the departure of the Neapolitan fleet and stating that your Lordship had no certain information of the intentions of the Duke of Genoa with regard to the Sicilian Crown.

Your Lordship will see by the papers that the announcement of the departure of the fleet was received with cheers and outcries of "War! War!" by both Chambers, and that in the evening the town was brilliantly illuminated.

Last night the troops and the National and Municipal Guards to the number of 8000 were reviewed by Ruggiero Settimo, who was loudly cheered by the multitude on the Marina and by the crowd in the Toledo.

Intelligence has been received of the arrival of the expedition at Reggio, where there are now fourteen steamers and three frigates.

The adjourned meeting of Messinese and Catanese Deputies has been put off *sine die*. Brocania, a Messinese concerned in the revolt of the 1st September, 1847, but who is now under a cloud for something wrong in his accounts, is said to have been the author of the meeting.

It is doubted whether Catania can make an effectual resistance to an invading army. The public spirit is high but the means of defence are scanty. I am without letters from Mr. Jeans for the last week.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 5 in No. 282.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, September 2, 1848.

CAPTAIN PELHAM being with me when I received your Lordship's despatch of 31st August, I read it over to him and took his opinion on the course to be followed. It was agreed that I should call upon the Marchese Torrecarsa this morning and learn what intelligence he possessed with regard to the Duke of Genoa.

I have accordingly called on the Marchese and learnt that he has no later advices from Turin than those of the 19th August, and that he is quite prepared for a refusal. "In that case," said I, "what would be done?" "Choose another Italian Prince" was his instant reply. I then turned the conversation to the King of Naples, and found that the Marchese had been apprized of the King's being "unreasonable," that is to say, determined to listen to no kind of compromise. This resolution of the King's, said the Marchese, will unite all parties against him.

Concurring in this remark I withdrew, after obtaining the Marchese's promise to communicate further intelligence from Turin as soon as it arrived.

I have since found that many of the leading Peers and Commoners are equally resolved to discard the Bourbons and to choose an Italian Prince as distinguished from a Neapolitan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

No. 253.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 11, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 14th ultimo, reporting the effect produced by the news of the events in the North of Italy, I have to say that both the Liberal and the Absolutist party in Italy take a very short-

sighted view of passing events if they imagine that the recent successes of the Austrian troops in Northern Italy can decide in favour of the principle of Absolute Government, the struggle which nearly for a twelvemonth has been going on in Italy between that principle and the principle of Constitutional Government. If indeed Austria of 1848 was the same as Austria of 1846, and if the rest of Europe now were in the same condition in regard to such matters as it was in two years ago; if the Austrian troops had been opposed only to a local insurrection in Lombardy, and had entirely suppressed that rising; then indeed might the friends of Constitutional Government in Italy have despaired of the future, and have felt that they had only to bow their heads submissively to the yoke which they could no longer have any hope of shaking off. But the success of Austrians should be looked upon as being what it really is, a military success, and not a triumph of political principles. That military success will lead to a territorial settlement, but cannot lead to a restoration of Arbitrary government even in the North of Italy and much less in the other parts of the peninsula.

Austria herself has renounced Arbitrary government, and has entered into the ranks of Constitutional States. The step which she has taken cannot be reversed, though there is reason to hope that the change may be regulated by prudence and moderation.

It is however impossible to suppose that, let what may be the final settlement which may be made as to territorial arrangements in Northern Italy, the influence of Austria will be exerted henceforward as heretofore, to crush the germ of rational freedom in the independent States of the Italian Peninsula, and to prevent in those States all legislative, administrative, social, and intellectual improvement. On the contrary, the Government of Austria will itself set an example of improvement and of reform; and it is scarcely possible that with a Representative legislature she should allow her Executive, even if it were so inclined, to impose upon other countries principles of government diametrically opposite to those which will be carried into practice in Austria herself.

Your Lordship will state this view of things to persons with whom you may communicate, and you will endeavour by such means to prevent either party from having recourse to violent measures—the Liberals out of exasperation and despair, the Absolutists out of unfounded confidence in external support.

With regard to the affairs of Sicily Her Majesty's Government retain the same feelings and opinions which they have always entertained on that subject. Their first wish would be that matters might be so arranged between the King of Naples and the Sicilians, that the King might retain the Crown of Sicily on his own head; and it seems to Her Majesty's Government that if he was to concede to Sicily the full scope of the Constitution of 1812 with those modifications which the Sicilian Parliament has made in it, there might still be a possibility that the Sicilians might be persuaded to accept him again as their Sovereign. I say a possibility, for it can scarcely be deemed to amount to a probability, because the events of the last seven months have tended to create so wide a breach between the King personally and the people of Sicily, that there must be among the great mass of the Sicilians a strong repugnance to place themselves again under his dominion.

Still however if the King was to appoint as his Viceroy in Sicily some unobjectionable member of his family, or some Sicilian noble, it seems possible that such a direct connexion might still be maintained between the two countries.

If however this should be found to be impossible, the next best thing would be, that the Sicilians should be persuaded to accept as their Sovereign a member of the King's Royal Family. Such an arrangement the Sicilians were at one time ready to consent to, and it was prevented from being carried into effect only by the refusal of the King to agree to it. The King may have profited by subsequent reflection, and he might now be willing to retain such a connexion between Sicily and Naples, if the first-mentioned plan should be impracticable. In such a case, if one of his sons should be raised to the Throne of Sicily it would be necessary that the Regency should be so composed as not to excite the national jealousy of the Sicilians.

It is to be remembered that by the Constitution of 1812 it was provided that whenever the King of Sicily might leave the island and take up his residence in his continental dominions, he should make over the Crown of Sicily to one of his sons, or to some other member of his family

Your Lordship is instructed to state these views of Her Majesty's Government to the Government of Naples, and to say that if you or Admiral Parker can be of any use as a channel of communication between the King and the Sicilians, Her Majesty's Government will feel great pleasure that either you or Sir William Parker should be so employed. But you will say that Her Majesty's Government earnestly hope that the King of Naples will confine himself in this matter to negotiation. Whether the Neapolitan Government has or has not the means of sending a considerable force to Sicily Her Majesty's Government do not pretend to be able to judge; but the events of the last few months tend to impress them with the strongest conviction that no expedition which the Neapolitan Government could send to Sicily would be able to reduce the people of that island to submission.

The Neapolitan troops might gain and retain possession of some particular positions in the island; they might carry fire and sword to a certain distance around those positions; they might burn villages, lay waste districts, destroy property, and kill a portion of the people; but it is not to be supposed that they could make themselves masters of the island and reduce its inhabitants to subjection; and the results of the expedition would only be to impress more deeply on the minds of the Sicilians those feelings of dislike and hatred to Neapolitan rule which have been engendered by the long course of extremely bad government of which under Neapolitan rule the Sicilians have had so justly to complain. The Neapolitan Government may perhaps be told by some of their Sicilian partisans that a large portion of the people are in favour of the King and would join his troops when they landed. There can be no reasonable ground for believing any such thing; and the Neapolitan Government may be sure that these statements are, like the generality of those which proceed from exiles, or from a small minority in a country, who want to call in the aid of foreign interference, founded on wishes and not upon facts.

Her Majesty's Government, then, being ready to offer in the first instance their good offices to the King of Naples in any negotiation which he may wish to open with the Sicilians for a reconciliation upon either of the before-mentioned plans, most earnestly hope that if neither of these plans shall prove possible, the King will allow the Sicilians to choose for themselves, and will not engage in an hostile expedition, which would lead to infinite bloodshed and devastation, but which in its final results would only widen and perpetuate the breach between the two countries.

The part which Great Britain has at former periods taken, first in securing Sicily for the Royal Family of Naples, and next in securing, as was thought at the time, for the Sicilians the benefit of a free Constitution, seems in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government to entitle the British Government to express its earnest solicitude on these matters, and must also in the eyes of the Government justify the weight to be given to the representations so made.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 284.

Mr. Addington to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 11, 1848.

I AM directed by Viscount Palmerston to transmit to you a copy of a despatch which has been addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Naples, in which he is instructed to offer to the Neapolitan Government either his own mediation or that of Sir William Parker with a view of bringing about a settlement of the differences now existing between the Neapolitans and the Sicilians; and I am to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to give corresponding instructions to Sir William Parker.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. U. ADDINGTON.

No. 285.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 12, 1848.

I HAVE to instruct your Lordship to represent verbally to the Neapolitan Government that the accounts which have reached England of the bad treatment of the Sicilian prisoners taken off the coast of Corfu have produced a very unpleasant effect and one very injurious to the Neapolitan Government.

To keep these persons in safe custody as prisoners of war is no doubt proper and in the ordinary course of things, but to place them in damp and unwholesome prisons, to give them bad and insufficient food, and to deprive them of the accommodation required by their condition, are acts of cruelty which can do no good to the Government but on the contrary inspire sympathy for the sufferers and array public opinion against the authority under which such proceedings take place. The Neapolitan Government moreover should remember that their officers and men may shortly fall as prisoners into the hands of the Sicilians, and that just resentment at the ill treatment of the Sicilian prisoners may lead to acts of retaliation.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 286.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 12, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 30th ultimo, inclosing a note which you had addressed to Prince Cariati on the subject of the projected expedition against Sicily, I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the course pursued by you on this occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON

No. 287.

Viscount Palmerston to the Marquis of Normandy.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 12, 1848.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch* which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Naples relative to the effect produced at Naples by the events in the North of Italy and relative to the state of affairs in Sicily and Naples.

Your Excellency will read the inclosed despatch to M. Bastide, and if he should concur in the view which I have taken of those affairs he may probably send to the French Minister at Naples instructions to the same effect as those which I have addressed to Lord Napier.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 288.

The Secretary to the Board of Ordnance to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Office of Ordnance, September 11, 1848.

THE Board of Ordnance having received an application from Messrs. Hood, ironfounders at Blackfriars, to be allowed to receive back again from the stores of this department (on the understanding of course that they shall

* See No. 283.

be replaced) the iron guns described on the other side hereof in aid of a supply of iron ordnance for the Sicilian Government which they state they have undertaken to make "at a very early period;" I have the honour by the Board's commands to communicate the same to you for Viscount Palmerston's information, and to request you will favour them with a notification of his Lordship's wishes as to a compliance or otherwise with this request, the Board having reason to believe that the "Sicilian Government" specified by Messrs. Hood, means the Island of Sicily, which has declared its independence of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. BUTLER,
For the Secretary.

4 iron guns, 32-pounders, 25 cwt. each.				
10	"	32	"	45
1	"	84	"	87

No. 289.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord,

Admiralty, September 13, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker dated the 31st August, reporting his proceedings on the coast of Italy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 289.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, August 31, 1848.

I REQUEST you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Bulldog" returned to this anchorage from Civita Vecchia on the 28th instant. I inclose the copy of a letter from Commander Key, reporting that although the tranquillity of Rome was in a precarious state, owing to the physical weakness of the Papal Government, yet that there was no reason to expect any immediate disturbance.

2. I have further to state for the information of their Lordships that a Neapolitan frigate and nine steamers, having on board troops estimated at 4,500 in number, including two Swiss regiments, proceeded from this bay yesterday evening to the southward, intended as it is supposed for operations against Messina and other parts of Sicily; about 18,000 being now assembled at Reggio and Messina.

3. In expectation of the departure of the expedition, the "Porcupine" was dispatched at 9 P.M. of the 29th, to Messina and Palermo, to apprise the captains of Her Majesty's ships "Gladiator" and "Odin" and the Consuls at those ports thereof, that due precautions may be taken for the protection of the property of Her Majesty's subjects on the renewal of hostilities.

4. I now transmit the correspondence* of Captain Rohh with General Pronio, commanding the citadel at Messina, adverted to in my letter of the 24th instant, which with my approval of his proceedings I have communicated to Lord Napier to be noticed to the Neapolitan Government.

Captain Pelham's latest account from Palermo of the 22nd instant informed me that a change had been made in the administrative Government, which did not however affect their general policy, and everything was then quiet at Palermo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

* See Inclosures 2, 3, and 4 in N 275.

Inclosure 2 in No. 289.

Commander Key to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Bulldog," Naples, August 28, 1848.

IN obedience to your memorandum of the 21st of August I arrived at Civita Vecchia on the afternoon of the 22nd, and proceeded to Rome the same evening, placing myself in communication with Mr. Freeborn and Mr. Petre. I ascertained that though the tranquillity of Rome was in a precarious state, owing to the physical weakness of the Papal Government, yet there was no reason to expect any immediate disturbance, at all events any political outbreak, until the result of the mediation of England and France for the pacification of the North of Italy should be made known.

2. Considering therefore that the presence of the "Bulldog" at Civita Vecchia was not essentially necessary I left that place on the 27th to rejoin your flag at Naples.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. COOPER KEY.

No. 290.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord,

Admiralty, September 11, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker dated at Naples the 3rd instant, and of its inclosures, reporting that the "Porcupine" was about to proceed to Marseilles with a Sicilian Envoy to the British Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure in No. 290.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, September 3, 1848.

I REQUEST you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Captain the Honourable Frederick Pelham at the request of the Sicilian Government at Palermo, accommodated the Sicilian Envoy with a passage to this place on the 31st ultimo in the "Porcupine," being charged with a special mission to Her Majesty's Government in London relative to the present critical state of affairs in Sicily; and I have this morning received a letter from that gentleman soliciting conveyance by one of Her Majesty's steamers to Marseilles to enable him to pursue his journey by that route with the greatest expedition.

Considering that the Government may be desirous of receiving his communications as soon as possible, and that a speedy conveyance may also be thus afforded for Captain Richards to assume his duties at Pembroke yard, I have ordered the "Porcupine" to proceed with them to Marseilles and return immediately *via* Leghorn with such information as Captain Codrington may have to forward respecting the state of affairs in that quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 291.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord,

Admiralty, September 11, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated at Naples the 4th instant, and of its inclosures, reporting the commencement of operations against Messina by the Neapolitan forces.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 291.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, September 4, 1848.

I REQUEST you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that a French steam-packet from Malta and Messina has just brought me a letter from Captain Robb, of which the inclosed is a copy, reporting the commencement of the operations of the Neapolitan expedition against the latter city.

2. I shall immediately dispatch the "Bulldog" to Messina to aid Captain Robb in the protection of the English, who I am happy to find by his report are all safely embarked in the "Gladiator."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 291.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Gladiator," Messina, September 3, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that since the sailing of the "Procu-pine" on the 30th ultimo the Neapolitan expedition against Sicily has arrived, consisting of ten steamers and one corvette.

The Faro battery fired on all the vessels both night and day on passing the Faro. On the afternoon of the 1st instant about 2000 troops were landed from two steamers and several boats in tow. The French steam-frigate "Panama" arrived from Naples on the 2nd instant; the "Merlin" arrived from Malta and proceeded on to Naples. A Neapolitan steamer passed through the strait with a corvette in tow.

In the afternoon about 1500 more troops were landed at the citadel, and at sunset the notice was given to the foreign Consuls here which I inclose *. At 6 o'clock this morning the citadel and Don Blasco commenced firing on the battery of Mare Grosso, the steamers having come over and attacked at the same time. At 7 the Sicilian batteries on the heights opened fire and the troops made a sortie from the back of the citadel where there were a number of boats to receive them; the fire became general on both sides. All the British residents and foreigners have been received on board, and the steam is up ready to slip if they could come nearer into port. The "Panama" and "Gladiator" are the only ships of war here.

I had formerly given notice to the British residents here to be prepared to come on board, and they are all in safety.

The whole Neapolitan force engaged is one frigate, ten steamers, nineteen gun-boats, and as some more men have been landed from one of the ships this morning, there may be about 5000 men landed besides those in the citadel before, in all about 8000 on shore besides those employed on board the steamers, gun-boats, and frigate.

* See Inclosure 2 in No. 281.

The soldiers who made the sortie from the citadel are lying on the beach near the lighthouse.

One frigate, one corvette, and two steamers are at Reggio.

I shall feel most anxious to make you acquainted with further particulars if I can have an opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ROBB.

No. 292.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 15, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 30th ultimo, inclosing the correspondence which passed between Captain Robb of Her Majesty's ship "Gladiator" and the commandant of the citadel of Messina, relative to the bombardment of that town, I have to instruct your Lordship to point out to the Neapolitan Government that these letters contain no justification whatever for the attack made by General Pronio on the population of Messina, however the statements made might warrant retaliatory measures of hostility against the Sicilian troops.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 293.

Mr. Addington to the Secretary to the Board of Ordnance.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 16, 1848.

I AM directed by Viscount Palmerston to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, requesting to be informed whether it is his Lordship's wish that a request addressed by Messrs. Hood, ironfounders at Blackfriars, to the Board of Ordnance, that they might be allowed to receive back again from the stores of the Ordnance certain iron guns which they had furnished, and stating the belief of the Board of Ordnance that those guns are intended for the Government of the Island of Sicily.

In reply I am directed to inform you that Viscount Palmerston sees no objection to a compliance with Messrs. Hood's request, if the guns are not immediately wanted for the British service.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. U. ADDINGTON.

No. 294.

The Marquis of Normanby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 16.)

(Extract.)

Paris, September 15, 1848.

GENERAL CAVAIGNAC gave me the inclosed copies of telegraphic messages received yesterday and to-day on the affairs of Sicily, and particularly on the capture of Messina. The General stated this to be all the information they had as yet received on this painful subject; that it appeared the horrors with which the combat was attended and the excesses which both parties seem to have committed, had induced Admiral Baudin to take upon himself the step of requiring from the Neapolitan Commander-in-chief the suspension of hostilities. The French Government had approved this step of the Admiral, which must have been dictated by the imperious calls of humanity. It appeared from the telegraphic message, which was not very clearly worded, that Sir William Parker, moved probably by the same considerations, had placed himself in a similar position.

Inclosure 1 in No. 294.

*Telegraphic Despatch from Toulon.**Naples, le 10.*

L'AMBASSADEUR de France à Naples à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Les détails affreux de la prise de Messine apportés par le "Pluton" ont décidé l'Amiral Baudin à imposer aux deux parties, au nom de l'humanité, une suspension d'hostilités jusqu'à la décision du Gouvernement de la République. Il m'a prévenu du départ de ses ordres à ce sujet ce matin, ainsi que l'Amiral Parker, qui se joindra à lui.

J'ai averti le Gouvernement Napolitain, qui se plaint très vivement.

Pour Naples, l'unité de Couronne, pour les Siciliens, préservés d'une soumission violente, toutes les garanties possibles; telles sont, il me semble, les seules bases de pacification qui aient chance de succès.

On a reçu aujourd'hui la nouvelle de la soumission pacifique de Milazzo. On dit que Catane envoie des Députés.

(Translation.)

Naples, 10.

THE Ambassador of France at Naples to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The frightful details of the capture of Messina brought by the "Pluton" have decided Admiral Baudin to impose upon the two parties, in the name of humanity, a suspension of hostilities until the decision of the Government of the Republic. He apprized me of the departure of his orders on the subject this morning, as also Admiral Parker, who will join him.

I have informed the Neapolitan Government, which complains very strongly.

As regards Naples, unity of Crown, as regards the Sicilians, preserved from a forced submission, all possible guarantees; such, as it appears to me, are the only bases of pacification which have a chance of success.

News has been received to-day of the peaceable submission of Milazzo. It is said that Catania is sending Deputies.

Inclosure 2 in No. 294.

*Telegraphic Despatch from Toulon.**Ischia, le 11 Septembre.*

LE Commandant de l'Escadre à M. le Ministre de la Marine et à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Messine a été emporté le 8 après un combat acharné de 5 jours,

Les Commandans des forces Navales Françaises et Anglaises ont fait tout ce qu'il était possible pour prévenir les calamités de cette lutte, ou pour les adoucir. 7000 habitans, la plupart femmes ou enfans, ont trouvé refuge sous la protection du pavillon Français. Des deux côtés on a commis des excès horribles. Les détails de cette affaire sont si révoltans que j'ai cru devoir m'opposer formellement à la continuation des hostilités.

Le Ministre de France à Naples a invité en mon nom le Gouvernement Napolitain à se borner à l'occupation de Messine et à s'abstenir de ravager le reste de la Sicile. J'espère que la France interposera sa médiation pour mettre fin à de telles calamités. J'attends vos ordres.

L'Amiral Parker, à qui j'ai annoncé ma résolution relative à la Sicile, me fait savoir que ses vaisseaux seront prêts et qu'il vient de donner des ordres à peu près semblables aux miens.

(Translation.)

Ischia, September 11.

THE Commandant of the squadron to the Minister of the Marine and to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Messina was captured on the 8th, after an obstinate combat of five days.

The Commanders of the French and English naval forces have done all that was possible to prevent the calamities of this contest, or to mitigate them. 7000 inhabitants, the greater part women or children, have found refuge under the protection of the French flag. Horrible excesses have been committed on both sides. The details of this affair are so revolting, that I deemed it my duty formally to oppose the continuance of hostilities.

The French Minister at Naples has requested, in my name, the Neapolitan Government to confine itself to the occupation of Messina, and to refrain from ravaging the rest of Sicily. I hope that France will interpose her mediation to put an end to such calamities. I await your orders.

Admiral Parker, to whom I announced my resolution respecting Sicily, informs me that his vessels will be ready, and that he has given orders in the same as mine.

No. 295.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

My dear Sir,

Admiralty, September 18, 1848.

AS it is certain Lord Palmerston would wish to see the accompanying letters from Sir William Parker as soon as possible, I send them in original, only begging of you to return them to me as soon as done with.

Yours very faithfully,

(Signed)

W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 295.

Orders issued by Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

By Sir William Parker, Bart, G.C.B., &c.

THE state of desolation and ruin to which Messina has been reduced by the recent bombardment it has sustained by the Neapolitan forces, has induced a strong representation from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires and myself to obtain a temporary armistice until reference can be made to Her Majesty's Government, with the hope that in concert with Her Majesty's allies some means may be taken to terminate by negotiation the rancorous contest now existing between the Neapolitans and Sicilians.

It has also been intimated that Her Majesty's ships will be prepared to enforce such an armistice if it becomes necessary.

I have reason to believe that Vice-Admiral Baudin has already issued orders to the several captains of the French ships on the coast of Sicily to oppose the continuation of the present hostilities.

Although Lord Napier has not received a formal answer to his appeal made last night I cannot apprehend that it will be rejected.

It is desirable, however, for the greater protection and security of British subjects and their property at Palermo, that you proceed thither without delay in Her Majesty's ship under your command and impart to the head of the Sicilian Government the position in which affairs now stand, endeavouring to ascertain from them whether they are ready to abide by an armistice of the nature above referred to, provided the Neapolitan Government are willing to enter into such an arrangement, as Her Britannic Majesty's forces can only interpose to prevent the continuation of hostilities upon the understanding that the suspension will be mutual and faithfully observed.

It is my intention to send a steamer to Palermo with further intelligence as soon as I have one available, by which you will probably receive orders for your further guidance.

While at Palermo you are to take the "Odin" under your orders, and before leaving you will complete that steam-ship to a supply of four months of bread, rum, tea, chocolate, and sugar.

Given on board the "Hibernia," at Naples, the 11th of September, 1848.

(Signed) WM. PARKER.

Amar L. Corry, Esq.

Captain of H. M. ship "Superb."

Inclosure 2 in No. 295.

Lord Napier to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

Naples, September 12, 1848.

WITH reference to your Excellency's letter of the 10th instant,* inviting the Neapolitan Government to order an immediate suspension of the war in Sicily, and intimating your intentions in case that advice should be rejected, I have the honour to inclose herewith a note† which I have this morning received from the Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which his Excellency states that until the receipt of further official intelligence he cannot return a conclusive reply to my communication, but in which I am not assured that the required cessation of hostilities will be commanded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 295.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Hibernia," September 13, 1848.

I HASTEN to transmit for your Lordship's perusal the despatches which I have just received from Captain Robb of Her Majesty's steam-frigate "Gladiator," by which I learn with sincere satisfaction, that the General commanding-in-chief the Neapolitan forces at Messina has, on the joint proposition of Captain Robb and Captain Nonay of the French ship of the line "Hercule," agreed to a suspension of hostilities, and all ulterior military operations on the coast of Sicily, in order to prevent the effusion of blood, until the Governments of France and England, as mediators, can settle the differences which offer themselves to a general peace.

I therefore earnestly hope that the Neapolitan Government will not hesitate to confirm without delay this humane and most desirable measure.

Requesting your Lordship will be pleased to return the inclosures at your earliest convenience.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 295.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Gladiator," Messina, September 11, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant‡, and beg to acquaint you in reply that I have required from the General Commander-in-chief the guarantee for the security of the British residents which has not yet been given, as the troops, although becoming more tranquil, are not to be depended on.

* See Inclosure 6 in No. 297.

+ See Inclosure 1 in No. 302.

‡ See Inclosure 1 in No. 303.

The flags on all the batteries were struck on the morning of the 6th instant ; this and their not firing a single shot on the morning of the 7th was the only demonstration made as no longer resisting, and they were afraid to send out a flag of truce.

I have also to acquaint you that no terms of capitulation were proposed nor any proclamation whatever made by the General before the bombardment began. On the morning of the 9th instant the Neapolitan steam-vessels, gun-boats and frigates entered the Mole. I, in company with Captain Nonay, waited on General Filangieri and the Neapolitan Commodore ; the Commodore sent very courteously to invite us to enter the port, but having so many refugees on board I deemed it more prudent to remain outside.

An expedition of four steamers went to Milazzo which surrendered without firing a shot, and the "Vesuvius" steam-vessel which had come there with the people of Palermo was captured.

A proclamation, of which I send you copies was issued, and from the very loose way in which the 2nd Article is worded, it leaves the means of prosecution almost unlimited.

The Municipal Government has been formed and there has been more tranquillity since, but many houses have been pillaged and people ill-treated, among which are some French, but I have prohibited all leave to go into the town until things are more settled.

As it was very desirable to have the French and English ships cleared of refugees as soon as possible, I ordered Commander Key in the "Bulldog" to-day to Catania, from which place I received the inclosed letter from the Consul, and I felt anxious to prevent the Catanese from exposing themselves to the destruction of their town by the Neapolitans who had sent three frigates and three steamers in that direction in the morning, and she sailed with the intention of getting there before them. About noon the "Pomone" French frigate arrived and brought your letters.

As there was no time to be lost I immediately waited on Captain Nonay, and in concert with him went to General Filangieri and we wrote a conjoint letter (copy inclosed) employing our influence for the suspension of hostilities, and which the General acceded to and sent to his advanced posts, Catania, Milazzo, and all along the coast. The French Captain was empowered to menace force in his application, but I declined to do more than engage the mediation of the two countries, which the pressing state of the affairs near Catania so much required.

In having employed this influence I hope I have only carried out your wishes in avoiding any compromise, except for the purpose of checking further and unnecessary severities. I feel the great delicacy of my position here, and I trust I have not gone beyond your orders.

The "Panama" goes to Naples, and the "Bulldog" will return to-morrow with a report from Catania, when I will send her immediately to Malta unless anything occurs in the meantime. It was our intention to have sent the "Bulldog" to Milazzo and "Panama" to Catania, to prevent a collision during the suspension of hostilities, but the General did not think it necessary, and thought it better to keep the matter secret.

I have heard a more detailed account of the loss of the Neapolitans, which in killed and wounded amounted to nearly 1500 men. One mine sprung by the Sicilians destroyed 408 Swiss and Neapolitan soldiers, and great barbarities were committed on both sides. The Neapolitans and Swiss in the town have been committing some excesses, but I believe not more than is usual in such cases, but very many have lost everything they possess—are wretched outcasts. The more one beholds the destruction of this beautiful town, the more one deplores the unfortunate feeling of revenge that could have devoted it whilst resisting to such a destruction.

I beg to inclose a copy of the basis of the conditions offered by the Sicilians which were very inadmissible, and the General Filangieri's reply ; also some of the proclamations which have been made since.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ROBB.

Inclosure 5 in No. 295.

*Public Notices issued at Messina by order of General Filangieri.**Avviso.*

SUA Eccellenza il Tenente-Generale, Principe di Satriano, Comandante in capo dello esercito e spedizione de Sua Maestà, mi ha incaricato di annunziare al pubblico, che da domani innanzi partiranno i corrieri per Napoli e per l'estero, e di avvertire i Signori Consoli e negozianti a fare rientrare nel porto i rispettivi loro legni mercantili per rendersi più agevole il commercio.

Il Sindaco,

MARCHESE DI CASSABILE.

*Messina, li 10 Settembre, 1848.**Avviso.*

SUA Eccellenza il Tenente-Generale D. Carlo Filangieri, Principe di Satriano, Comandante-in-capo del corpo di esercito di spedizione, mi ha incaricato di annunziare al pubblico:

Che Sua Maestà il Re (nostro Signor) qual padre amoroso de' suoi popoli, dimentica i passati travimenti, nella sicura persuasione che da ora innanzi i suoi sudditi Siciliani ritorneranno a quel devoto e fedele attaccamento per la sacra sua persona che li ha sempre resi sì cari al cuor.

Per la sola mancanza di facoltà la prefata Eccellenza sua è nell' obbligo di eccettuare da questo generale ed amplissimo perdono i capi della ribellione e gli eccitatori a gravi disordini che sì gran danno arrecano a questa bellissima isola. Costoro nullameno dando prove di sincero ravvedimento debbono serbare la speranza di ritrovare nella nota clemenza di Sua Maestà la stessa benevole indulgenza.

Attesa l'affliggente posizione i cui Messina trovasi per le conseguenze delle passate vicende, permette l'Eccmo. Generale-in-capo che rimanga fino a nuova disposizione sospeso il dazio sul macino, il quale nella maggior parte è soddisfatto dalla classe meno agiata, ch'è pure la più numerosa.

Viene parimenti per ordine di sua Eccellenza il Generale Principe di Satriano dichiarato, che da oggi innanzi la intera città di Messina in dentro della sua cinta murata sarà porto franco, e godranno lo stesso privilegio i suburghi di S. Leone, Boccetta, Portalegni, e Laera, tostochè sarà compiuto il muro di cinta che formerà d'allora in poi l'intero novello ambito dell'annuo porto franco.

Da ultimo ha stabilito l'Eccellenza sua che tanto le autorità ecclesiastiche quanto i funzionari finanziari ed amministrativi Siciliani si restituiscano immediatamente al posto che occuparono alla fine di Agosto dello scorso anno, affin da riprendere senza indugio l'esercizio dei rispettivi loro uffici.

Quanto riguarda i magistrati, le autorità giudiziarie, e le riaperture de' tribunali, verrà in proseguo stabilito.

Il Sindaco,

MARCHESE DI CASSABILE.

*Messina, li 10 Settembre, 1848.**Avviso.*

SUA Eccellenza il Tenente-Generale, Principe di Satriano, Comandante-in-capo il corpo d'esercito di spedizione, ordina che tutti gli abitanti di questa città di Messina e sue dipendenze suburbane, di qualunque rango e classe fossero, i quali si trovino detentori di armi da fuoco di qualsiasi specie e di arme bianche militari, abbiano a depositarle nel termine improrogabile di tre giorni, 12, 13, e 14 del corrente, all'uffiziale superiore di ciò incaricato, il quale dalle 8 A. M. alle 5 P. M. de sudetti tre giorni rimarrà all'uopo in permanenza nel Palazzo Senatorio.

I contravventori saranno punito con tutta la severità delle leggi militari.

Il Tenente-Generale,

Messina, li 11 Settembre, 1848.

PRINCIPE DI SATRIANO.

(Translation.)

Notice.

HIS Excellency Lieutenant-General Prince of Satriano, Commander-in-chief of the army and expedition of His Majesty, has directed me to announce publicly, that from to-morrow couriers will be dispatched for Naples and foreign countries; and to call upon the Consuls and merchants to cause their respective trading ships to re-enter the harbour, in order to facilitate trade.

The Syndic,

(Signed)

MARQUIS DI CASSABILE.

*Messina, September 10, 1848.**Notice.*

HIS Excellency Lieutenant-General D. Carlo Filangieri, Prince of Satriano, Commander-in-chief of the army of the expedition, has directed me to announce to the public:

That His Majesty our Lord the King, like a loving father of his people, forgets their past errors, in the certain persuasion that his Sicilian subjects will from henceforward return to that devoted and faithful attachment to his sacred person which has always endeared them to his heart.

His Excellency aforesaid is compelled, by nothing but the want of power, to except from this general and most ample pardon the chiefs of the rebellion and the persons who have stirred up the grave disturbances which have produced such injury to this beautiful island. The latter, nevertheless, by giving evidence of sincere amendment, may retain the hope of finding the same benevolent indulgence from the known clemency of His Majesty.

In consideration of the disastrous position in which Messina stands, owing to the events which have taken place, his Excellency the General-in-chief permits until further orders, the continuance of the suspension of the duty on grinding corn, which is principally paid by the class least wealthy, which is also the most numerous.

It is also declared, by order of his Excellency the General Prince of Satriano, that from this day forward the whole city of Messina within the walls shall be a free port, and that the suburbs of St. Leone, Boccetta, Portalegni, and Laera, shall enjoy the same privileges, so soon as the inclosing wall shall be completed, which shall from that moment form the entire new circuit of the said free port.

Finally, his Excellency has determined that the Sicilian ecclesiastical authorities as well as the financial and administrative functionaries, shall immediately resume the posts which they occupied at the end of August last year, so that they may without delay enter upon the duties of their respective offices.

As far as regards the magistrates, the judicial authorities, and the reopening of the tribunals, measures will be resolved on hereafter.

The Syndic,

(Signed)

MARQUIS DI CASSABILE.

*Messina, September 10, 1848.**Notice.*

HIS Excellency Lieutenant-General Prince of Satriano, Commander-in-chief of the army of the expedition, orders that all the inhabitants of this city of Messina and its suburban dependencies, of whatever rank or class they may be, who shall be possessed of fire-arms of any kind whatever, and of military weapons, do give up the same within the absolute term of three days, the 12th, 13th, and 14th instant, to the superior officer appointed to receive them, who during the said three days will constantly remain in the Senatorial Palace for that purpose, from 8 o'clock A.M. to 5 o'clock P.M.

Those who disobey shall be punished with all the severity of martial law.

The Lieutenant-General,

(Signed)

PRINCE OF SATRIANO.

Messina, September 11, 1848.

Inclosure 6 in No. 295.

Vice-Consul Jeans to Captain Robb.

Sir,

Catania, September 8, 1848.

I AVAIL myself of the departure of a Maltese speronara for Civita Vecchia to inform you of the state of affairs in this place.

Since the news of the attack of the Neapolitan troops in Messina, the alarm here has been considerable, but the enthusiasm both in Catania and the neighbourhood is very great; every one seems to feel that on his personal endeavours hangs the fate of Sicily.

The communication between Messina and this place being intercepted by the Neapolitan troops we have only scanty advice from the seat of war, per telegraph.

About 3000 men collected in this place and in the neighbouring towns and villages, have up to this time left Catania with the intention of attacking the Neapolitans in the rear, and the Catanese seem confident that these forces will be of much service if they arrive before the Neapolitans make their final attack on Messina.

A determined spirit of opposition to the Neapolitans and to a return to Neapolitan rule seems prevalent among all classes, and even should the troops of the King of Naples enter Messina, it strikes me as very doubtful if he be not still very far from reconquering Sicily.

The neighbourhood of this place is defended by harricades, fosses, &c., but I much doubt whether on its defenceless state as regards artillery, it could hold out for any length of time against a regular invading force.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. ROBT. JEANS.

Inclosure 7 in No. 295.

Captains Robb and Nonay to General Filangieri.

(Translation.)

Roads of Messina, September 11, 1848.

THE Undersigned, commanding the ships of the naval stations of England and France, have the honour to notify to his Excellency the General Commanding-in-chief of the Neapolitan expedition, that they are charged by their respective Commanders-in-chief not to molest the possession of the towns of Messina and Milazzo, of which the capture has been made, but they have orders to employ their influence for the suspension of hostilities and all ulterior military operations on the coast of Sicily, in order to prevent the effusion of blood, until the Governments of France and England as mediators can settle the differences which oppose themselves to a general peace.

The two Governments of England and France both up to this date have observed most scrupulously the laws of neutrality, and here they invoke the sacred laws of humanity.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN ROBB.
NONAY.

Inclosure 8 in No. 295.

General Filangieri to Captain Robb.

M. le Capitaine,

Messine, le 11 Septembre, 1848.

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de la note que vous m'avez adressée aujourd'hui même, que je m'empresse de transmettre au Roi mon Auguste Souverain, dont j'attendrai les ordres.

Depuis mon entrée à Messine vous n'ignorez pas que loin de penser à continuer les hostilités, je ne m'occupe qu'à cicatrizer les plaies profondes que les derniers événemens ont causées, et je vous assure que je continuerai à

suivre cette ligne en rappelant mes croisières jusqu'à ce que des informations nouvelles de la part de Sa Majesté viennent m'indiquer la direction que je devrai prendre.

Agréé, &c.
Le Lieutenant-Général,
(Signé) CHARLES FILANGIERI,
Prince de Satriano.

(Translation.)

M. le Capitaine, *Messina, September 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note which you have addressed to me to-day, which I shall hasten to transmit to the King my august Sovereign, whose orders I shall await.

From the time of my entrance into Messina you are not ignorant that, far from thinking to continue hostilities, I am only engaged in healing the deep wounds which recent events have occasioned, and I assure you that I shall continue to pursue this course recalling my cruizers until fresh intelligence from His Majesty shall point out to me the direction which I am to take.

Receive, &c.
The Lieutenant-General,
(Signed) CHARLES FILANGIERI,
Prince of Satriano.

Inclosure 9 in No. 295.

General Filangieri to Captain Robb.

M. le Comandant, *Messine, le 7 Septembre, 1848.*

CI-dessous la copie des prétendues bases de la capitulation que mon chef d'état-major me remet de votre part. Mon devoir et l'honneur militaire me défendent de les accepter; ce que vous sentirez aussi bien que moi.

Je profite de cette occasion pour vous remercier, ainsi que le Capitaine Nonay, commandant le vaisseau Français "l'Hercule," de votre médiation amicale, quoique malheureusement infructueuse.

Le Lieutenant-Général Commandant-en-chef,
(Signé) CHARLES FILANGIERI.

(Translation.)

M. le Commandant, *Messina, September 7, 1848.*

BELOW is a copy of the pretended bases of capitulation which the Chief of my staff delivers to me on your behalf. My duty and military honour prevent my acceptance of them; which you will feel as well as myself.

I take advantage of this opportunity to thank you as well as Captain Nouny commanding the French ship "L'Hercule," for your friendly, although unfortunately fruitless mediation.

The Lieutenant-General,
(Signed) CHARLES FILANGIERI.

Basi della Capitolazione.

I REGI si abbiano il possesso di fatto della città, la quistione rimanga a decidersi dal Parlamento; siano rispettati in tutta la estensione e senza eccezione alcuna, l'onore, la vita, la libertà personale e le proprietà; rimanga il governo della città alle attuali autorità; restituzione reciproca di quei prigionieri che forse si saran fatti.

Per copia conforme.

Il Tenente-Generale Comandante-in-capo,
(Firmato) CARLO FILANGIERI.

Inclosure in No. 296..

*Telegraphic Despatch from Messina.**Napoli 8 Settembre, 1848.*

NON essendovi oggi giornale per la festa della Natività della Vergine, ci affrettiamo a pubblicare in questo supplemento il seguente consolantissimo ufficiale annunzio di avere i nostri prodi soldati ricondotto Messina all' obbedienza del Re Signor nostro.

Napoli, 8 Settembre, 1848.

Rapporto Telegrafico.

Ore 1½ pomeridiane.

" Il Tenente-Generale Filangieri in Messina a S. E. il Ministro della Guerra e Marina.

" Messina conquistata, e rientra nell' obbedienza del suo legittimo Sovrano.

" Una disperata difesa di due giorni non è stata di ostacolo al mirabile valore delle Reali truppe, le quali alle grida di ' Viva il Re ! ' hanno superato i maggiori ostacoli.

Da Messina, alle 5 pomeridiane del 7."

(Translation.)

Naples, September 8, 1848.

AS no journal will be published to-day, it being the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin, we hasten to make known in this supplement the following most consolatory official account of Messina having been reduced to the obedience of the King our master by our valorous soldiers.

Naples, September 8, 1848.

Telegraphic Despatch.

1½ P.M.

" Lieutenant-General Filangieri to his Excellency the Minister of War and Marine.

" Messina is conquered and returns under the obedience of its lawful Sovereign.

" A most desperate defence of two days proved no obstacle to the prodigious valour of the Royal troops, who with cries of ' Long live the King ! ' surmounted the greatest obstacles.

Messina, September 7, 5 P.M."

No. 297.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 18.)

My Lord,

Naples, September 10, 1848.

THE despatch inclosed herewith from Captain Robb of Her Majesty's steam-frigate " *Gladitor*," to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, contains the details of the siege and capture of Messina by the Neapolitan troops.

This narrative, which is stamped with the liveliest characters of horror, arrived last night by the French steam-vessel of war " *Pluton*," and was presented to the Vice-Admiral along with the accompanying letter from Admiral Baudin, who was so deeply affected by the calamities caused by the indiscriminating warfare waged by the Royal forces, that he instantly dispatched orders, without even communicating with the French Envoy, to the officer in command of the French vessels of war at Messina, enjoining him to oppose all further prosecution of hostilities.

Admiral Baudin in imparting this measure to Sir William Parker desires his co-operation, but expresses his resolution to act singly in case the latter should not deem himself enabled to embrace a similar course.

On the receipt of this intelligence I immediately communicated with the Vice-Admiral, and on a deliberate review of the position in which we were placed

by the unexampled disasters with which Sicily is menaced, and by the active intervention offered by the French Commander-in-chief, Sir William Parker with my full assent addressed me the inclosed official letter, urging strongly upon the Neapolitan Government the expediency of ordering an immediate cessation of active operations, and intimating his intention if necessary of supporting this advice by the employment of force.

Sir William Parker's communication has been conveyed to his Excellency Prince Cariati in the note which I have the honour to submit to your Lordship, and which is conceived in a similar sense.

I have also this evening had a personal interview with Prince Cariati in company with M. de Rayneval, when we strongly pressed upon his Excellency the propriety of relieving our respective commanders from the necessity of resorting to further demonstrations by a prompt and spontaneous suspension of arms.

The departure of the steam-vessel for Toulon at any early hour to-morrow morning will prevent my having the honour to forward to your Lordship the reply of the Neapolitan Government by this occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 297.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"*Gladiator*," Messina, September 8, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters No. 64, 65, 66, and shall pay particular attention to the instructions contained therein. Having made you acquainted with the commencement of the bombardment on the 3rd instant, I shall continue to relate the progress of events up to the last moment, as they have been most important and fatal to the Sicilian independence.

I had detailed all the circumstances up to the sailing of the "*Merlin*" for Malta to Rear-Admiral Harvey, and beg to inclose copies of my letters to him.

The bombardment of the town was continued during the whole of the 3rd instant, and commenced again at daylight on the 4th, and was kept up without intermission on both sides until dusk. On the 5th the Sicilians did not commence firing, although their batteries had not suffered greatly; they appeared to be saving their ammunition; but in the afternoon the firing became general on both sides. At 2 P.M. the "*Bulldog*" arrived, and at 4 the French ship "*Hercule*," the captain of which immediately put himself in communication with me and assured me of his assistance in endeavouring to stop bloodshed as much as possible. Two steamers with troops and many boats in tow landed about 2000 troops at the citadel.

At 6 P.M. Signor Piraino came on board with a deputation to beg me if possible to send the "*Bulldog*" to Palermo, which I declined to do until they assured me that it was for the purpose of consulting with the Parliament of Palermo on the actual state of affairs here, and to request conditions on what they were to urge if they should be required to surrender. I then desired Signor Piraino to write me a letter to that effect (copy inclosed), and having acquainted the captain of the "*Hercule*," with my intention, the "*Bulldog*" left this Palermo at 9 o'clock with a deputy for the aforesaid purpose.

The bombardment continued the whole day and a partial firing on both sides was kept up during the night. On the morning of the 6th the Neapolitan squadron consisting of two frigates, one corvette, thirteen steamers, and nineteen gun-boats, with other boats in tow, came over from Reggio, and under their fire a landing of the troops was effected. The firing from the citadel and Sicilian batteries and the Neapolitan squadron became general, and it was difficult to see the issue of the battle from the great smoke, as all the country at the south of the town appeared to be in flames. About 300 Palermitans under La Masa marched out in the morning to repulse the landing; but it appeared to me that although the Sicilians from the batteries fought with the greatest courage, it was scarcely possible for them without leaders or organised discipline to repulse the armed military force that was sent against them. About 2 o'clock a courier arrived to state that the Sicilians had obtained a victory, but I put no faith in the report. About 4 o'clock the people (men, women, and children),

carrying bundles, were escaping in great numbers from the town, and evidently the Neapolitan troops were advancing. Many seized the boats on the shore or any small vessel they could find and crowded on board the different vessels. The French ships deserve the greatest credit for the humanity with which they received the people, who were crowded almost to suffocation; and the "Gladiator" was literally packed so full that it was with difficulty that a passage could be formed on the deck; for the women, with children in their arms, leaving their burning town behind them, and flying for their lives to seek refuge on board here, were most willingly received. It is impossible to state the numbers who were thus saved, but I think that at one time there must have been 1500 persons on board. The conduct of the officers and seamen of the ship in giving these people every succour, their provisions, their beds, in short suffering all privation to relieve these unfortunate refugees, deserve my fullest approbation. It was impossible for me to do more than to give them biscuits and tea, as the means of making further provisions was not in our power.

The firing on both sides continued long after dark and the town was in flames in many places. About 7 o'clock Signor Piraino and his secretary came on board to state that the squadron had been dispersed, the National Guard had deserted, and that the Neapolitan troops were at the gates of the town, and begged me to use my mediation to stop the effusion of blood. This was most difficult to be done at that moment; but I took him on board the "Hercule" as my own cabin was filled with women and children and I had no place to hold a conference. The captain of the "Hercule," who has listened to all my suggestions and opinions and acted cordially throughout in our endeavours at conciliation and in the cause of humanity, agreed with me that the time was now come for any intermediation that might tend to our great object, and we asked Signor Piraino if he was prepared to surrender to the victorious Neapolitans. He replied that he could not give a decisive reply before he had consulted the Comitato, and he appeared suspicious of falling a sacrifice to some vindictive feeling in the town. The captain of the "Hercule" and I could not in any way interfere without having some conditions to offer, and we were obliged to remain neutral. Signor Piraino did not admit that they were conquered, as the firing except occasionally had entirely ceased; the town was burning in many places, the country round in flames, and the inhabitants on board had fled from the desolating scene; and about 10 o'clock, at the suggestion of some of the leaders, he went on shore again to decide on further resistance or submission.

About 2½. 30m. A.M. on the 7th Signor Piraino returned with a deputation consisting of the General, the capo or chief of the squadron of the Municipal Guard, and the civil authorities (about fifteen), and told me they had no further hope of success. The squadron had been scattered, the National Guard deserted, the Palermitans deceived them, in short that no reliance could be made on any force to recommence the action in the morning. I took them on board the "Hercule," and after much discussion Captain Nonay and I agreed to send a French and English officer to the General-in-chief to supplicate a suspension of arms until the terms of capitulation could be agreed upon (translated copy of letter inclosed). In consequence of the folly of these people debating so long much time was lost, and although the letter arrived at the citadel at 4½. 30m. A.M. no answer was received until 8 o'clock when the aide-de-camp of General Filangieri returned with a reply that he was ready to agree to a suspension of arms as soon as the firing had ceased on the side of the Sicilians, but requested to know the basis of the conditions that were to be offered to the General. After a debating of nearly two hours and a half they proposed as the conditions that the surrender of the town be made *de facto* to the Neapolitans, but subject to the approval of Palermo; that the actual Government of the town should remain in the hands in which it then was; that lives, property, and liberty should be guaranteed, and an interchange of prisoners.

Although the deputation were warned by Captain Nonay and myself, that the two first propositions presented obstacles so great that they could not be granted, and they were begged to reflect much on them before they were sent, they persisted in sending them, giving as a reason their dread of popular feelings. At 10½. 30m. the officers went to the citadel with the basis of these conditions giving an assurance that the fire should immediately cease, and the Sicilian General sent orders to the same effect to the Sicilian forces.

The whole of this period, which was so valuable for the preservation of the lives of many and preventing the destruction of the town, was spent in debate and in spite of the counsel given them to be moderate in their demands was productive of terms that no General could accept.

In the meantime, 5 A.M., the steam-vessels which had returned to Reggio on the previous morning returned with fresh troops, the citadel and Salvatore opened their fire upon the town, the Sicilians had expended all their ammunition on the previous night, and not a single shot has been fired during this day, yet the bombardment of the town continued until 10 o'clock, when the firing became slackened; but the city was in flames from one end to the other; and it is scarcely possible that a single house can have escaped this constant bombardment of five days and nights. In the afternoon the Neapolitan colours were hoisted on the heights behind the town; the few people who remained in the town fled from it, and were received on board any vessel that could be found, and were placed under the protection of the French and English ships. A French and English officer waited for a reply to the conditions until after dark. The firing had ceased. The town was burning in eleven different places, and the whole population of Messina had deserted it.

The "Bulldog" having arrived on the 7th, and the "Solon" French steamer from Naples, the French surgeons having expressed their opinion that the very crowded state of the ships was likely to create a disease, Captain Nonay and I determined to send the "Bulldog" and "Parana" to Milazzo and Catania in the morning with as many refugees as they could carry. At 8 o'clock P.M. the Foreign Consuls in a body came on board to consult as to the probability of their being able to save some of the property of the burning town, and were sent on board the "Hercule," where they addressed a protest to the General-in-chief, which was forwarded to the citadel this morning.

It was suggested that with the concurrence of the General a large convent near the ships should be protected by the flags of France and England, and the refugees landed from the ships there under the guarantee of the General. At noon a verbal reply was returned that this would not be permitted; and in the meantime many of the people have returned to the shore on their own account, but until I have some guarantee for the security of the people who are not compromised, I shall not insist on their landing; and the General has been acquainted that if this be not done the French Commander and myself are determined to send them to Catania and Milazzo, leaving the result to the whole of Europe.

The Neapolitans took possession of the town during the night, but I have not learned if it be given to sack and pillage, as it is still burning.

About 8-30 this morning I received a letter from a Neapolitan officer, to the effect that he was to attack the Sicilian gun-boats and to beg that I would move this ship out of the line of fire; I told him that the Sicilian gun-boats had been entirely abandoned for nearly two days, and sent an officer with him to pull along the line in which they were moored to assure him of this fact. They were taken possession of in the course of the forenoon.

Having thus stated in detail the different events that have occurred from the date of my last letter, I am glad to assure you that in all that has taken place in our endeavour to promote a cessation of hostilities and to spare the further effusion of blood, I have been aided by and have acted in concert with Captain Nonay, the French senior officer here. I must also bear testimony to the great courage of the Sicilians who have supported for four days a constant bombardment, and an overwhelming force for two days, without leaders or organization of any kind and in want of powder, caps and ball. They have sustained themselves as brave men, whilst I regret that the obstinacy of the members of the Executive Government has led to the destruction of the town, although I cannot see any reason for the bombardment of eight hours without having been answered by a single battery. The town has in consequence been completely ruined as far as I can judge at this distance, and still burning.

At 12-30 four Neapolitan steamers towing sixteen gun-boats have entered the Mole, and the frigates are over at Reggio.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ROBB.

Inclosure 2 in No. 297.

M. Piriano to Captain Robb.

Sir,

Messina, September 3, 1848.

YOU will perceive how the cruelty and cowardice of the Royalists in a state of rage on account of the loss of those who attempted to land on this shore where a thousand enemies were waiting for them, have been guilty of new atrocities in directing their whole fire towards this city, which is now suffering from bombardment, from fires, and from ruins. Nevertheless they have witnessed what the courage and valour of the Sicilians has been and what sacrifice they will endure to gain their liberty.

Great Britain will stand as a witness to the whole world, and she will attest to the same what the cruelty, cowardice, and infamy of these assassins has been.

--- If you have any fire-engines to spare, and also if you could lend us a surgeon, you would do what England always does in favour of humanity.

The General Commanding,

(Signed)

D. PIRAINO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 297.

Captains Robb and Nonay to the General Commanding the Army of the King of Naples before Messina.

*French ship 'Hercule,' off Messina,
September 7, 1848, 4 A.M.*

General,

THE English and French ships of war can receive no more of the Messinese families who are flying from the sack and pillage with which they think they are menaced.

It is therefore in the name of the God of all mercy that the Undersigned, commanding the naval forces of France and England, appeal to the humanity of the representative of His Majesty of Naples.

They beseech him to agree to a truce for the purpose of staying the further effusion of blood, which has already been too much shed, and establish conditions of capitulation, which may be discussed on board the French ship of the line "L'Hercule" by deputies charged with the requisite powers from the two belligerent parties.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN ROBB.
NONAY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 297.

Protest of the Consular Body against the Bombardment of Messina.

LES Soussignés, Consuls des nations Anglaise, Française, Danoise, Hollandaise, Belge, Prusse, Suisse, Confédération du Rhin, Villes Ansatiques, &c., ont l'honneur de représenter à son Excellence Monsieur le Général en chef de l'armée de Sa Majesté le Roi des Deux Siciles devant Messine, que c'est le 2 Septembre à 9 heures du soir qu'ils ont reçu avis que quelques unes des villes maritimes de la Sicile devaient être réoccupées par la force des armes, et que le lendemain 3, à 7 heures du matin, le feu a été ouvert sur la ville de Messine. Cet espace de temps est assurément trop court pour remplir tous les devoirs de leur position, aussi leurs nationaux, leurs propriétés n'ont-elles pu être garanties en temps opportun.

Depuis le 3, le bombardement et l'attaque ont été poussés avec plus d'activité, et enfin aujourd'hui 7, ils ont la douleur de voir la ville de Messine livrée aux flammes, aux bombes, et à toutes les fureurs de la guerre, sans qu'aucune autorité locale, aucuns secours quelconques ne soient venus tenter de diminuer l'affreuse conséquence de l'état des choses.

En présence de la ruine imminente de cette ville florissante, ils auraient cru que les troupes du Roi se seraient empressées de censurer ou du moins diminuer sa destruction, attendu que, abandonnée depuis ce matin par tous les habitans, personne n'aurait pu s'opposer à l'extinction de tous ces incendies.

Il n'en a rien été ; les flammes ont fait des progrès si rapides, que la destruction de la ville peut être considérée comme complète si on ne se hâte d'arrêter les ravages de ces incendies par les moyens ordinaires.

Les Soussignés pensent que personne plus que son Excellence ne peut disposer des moyens suffisans, ils viennent donc maintenant la supplier dans l'intérêt de l'humanité comme dans les intérêts du Roi, d'aviser aux moyens les plus prompts, les plus efficaces, pour arrêter tous les ravages dont les Soussignés sont menacés dans leurs personnes comme dans leurs propriétés.

Les Soussignés déposent donc ici les protestations que de droit contre toutes les circonstances qui pourraient résulter de l'état des choses qu'ils viennent avoir l'honneur d'exposer.

Les Soussignés ont l'honneur de prier son Excellence de vouloir bien les prévenir dès qu'elle jugera qu'ils peuvent retourner dans leurs Consuls avec sécurité.

(Suivent les Signatures.)

(Translation.)

THE Undersigned, Consuls of England, France, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Prussia, Switzerland, the Confederation of the Rhine, Hanse Towns, &c., have the honour to represent to his Excellency the General-in-chief of the army of His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies before Messina, that it was 9 o'clock in the evening of the 2nd of September when they received notice that some of the maritime towns of Sicily were to be forcibly reoccupied, and that the next morning, the 3rd, at 7 o'clock, fire was opened on the city of Messina. This space of time is assuredly too short for them to discharge all the duties of their office; consequently the subjects of their nations and their properties could not be placed in a state of security in sufficient time.

From the 3rd, the bombardment and the attack have been followed up with greater activity, and finally to-day the 7th, they have the pain of seeing the city of Messina given over to the flames, to the shells, and to all the horrors of war, without any local authority, or any succour whatever, endeavouring to diminish the frightful consequence of the state of affairs.

In the face of the impending ruin of this flourishing city, they might have supposed that the King's troops would have been eager to blame, or at least to diminish its destruction, seeing that, as it was abandoned from this morning by all the inhabitants, there was no one who could offer any opposition to the extinguishing of all these fires.

Nothing of this has been done; the flames have made such rapid progress that the destruction of the city may be considered complete if haste is not made to put a stop to the ravages of these fires by the ordinary means.

The Undersigned conceive that no one more than your Excellency can dispose of the sufficient means: they therefore entreat you in the interest of humanity, as well as in those of the King, to adopt the most prompt and most efficacious measures to put a stop to the destruction by which the Undersigned are menaced, as well in their persons as in their properties.

The Undersigned therefore now protest, as they are entitled to do, against all the circumstances which may ensue from the state of things, which they have now have the honour to set forth.

The Undersigned have the honour to request your Excellency to have the goodness to inform them when you consider that they may return to their Consulates with safety.

(The Signatures follow.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 297.

Vice-Admiral Baudin to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Mon cher Sir William,

Ischia, 9 Septembre, 1848.

J'AI reçu cet après-midi par le "Pluton" un rapport détaillé du Capitaine Nonay, du vaisseau "l'Hercule," sur les funestes événemens dont Messine vient d'être le théâtre.

J'ai vu avec plaisir que le Capitaine Robb du "Gladiator," fidèle aux sentimens d'humanité et de générosité dont il a déjà donné tant de preuves, avait dans cette dernière circonstance aidé de son active et cordiale coopération les efforts du Commandant des forces Françaises pour arrêter l'effusion du sang, adoucir les maux de la guerre, et sauver le plus grand nombre possible de victimes de ce désastre.

Par respect pour les règles de la neutralité nous avons pensé jusqu'à ce jour, mon cher Sir William, devoir nous abstenir, chacun de notre côté, de nous interposer dans la lutte entre le Gouvernement Napolitain et la Sicile. A cet égard, nous étions, vous et moi, sans ordres de nos Gouvernemens respectifs, qui ne pouvaient prévoir que l'expédition actuelle prendrait le caractère de barbarie et de fureur qui vient malheureusement de marquer ses actes.

Les Ministres de France et d'Angleterre près la Cour de Naples se sont donc bornés à des conseils bienveillans pour engager le Gouvernement de ce pays, dans son intérêt même, non moins que dans un intérêt général d'humanité, à suspendre son expédition contre la Sicile.

L'expédition a été entreprise malgré ces conseils, et nous avons dû lui laisser suivre son cours. Si vous ou moi nous y fussions opposés avant l'attaque de Messine, le Cabinet Napolitain n'aurait pas manqué de se plaindre, et il l'aurait fait avec une apparence de raison.

Il aurait allégué des intentions bienveillantes envers la Sicile, et des instructions modérées données au Général Filangieri.

Mais aujourd'hui nous voyons de quelle manière ou a procédé devant Messine, et quels ont été les résultats de l'attaque. On s'est jeté sur cette malheureuse ville sans sommation préalable, sans la moindre tentative d'accommodement, et la lutte a pris de part et d'autre un caractère d'acharnement et de férocity qui fait préjuger les scènes les plus horribles dans le cas où elle viendrait à se prolonger.

Le sang appelle le sang; la vengeance appelle la vengeance; les atrocités commises par l'une des parties amèneraient nécessairement de la part de l'autre de terribles et longues représailles.

Ma conscience me crie donc, mon cher Sir William, qu'il est de mon devoir d'arrêter cette funeste lutte, au moins jusqu'à ce que les intentions de mon Gouvernement me soient connues. J'ai assez respecté jusqu'à ce jour les règles de la neutralité; les saintes lois d'humanité doivent avoir leur tour, et je vous déclare que je donne ordre aux divers Commandans des forces Françaises sur les côtes de Sicile de s'opposer à la continuation des hostilités.

Si vous croyez pour votre part devoir coopérer à cette mesure, je verrai avec satisfaction que les forces de nos deux nations agissent dans un sentiment commun de bienveillance envers les parties belligérantes pour empêcher de nouvelles calamités.

Dans le cas contraire je n'en suivrai pas moins la ligne de conduite qui me paraît tracée aujourd'hui par la raison et par l'humanité.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) CHS. BAUDIN.

(Translation.)

My dear Sir William,

Ischia, September 9, 1848.

I HAVE received this afternoon by the "Pluton" a detailed report from Captain Nonay of the "Hercules" on the fatal events of which Messina has just been the theatre.

I have observed with pleasure that Captain Robb of the "Gladiator," true

to the sentiments of humanity and generosity of which he has already given so many proofs, had on this last occasion assisted by his active and cordial co-operation the efforts of the Commander of the French forces to put a stop to the effusion of blood, to mitigate the evils of the war, and to save the greatest number possible of the victims of this disaster.

From regard to the rules of neutrality, we have up to this time, my dear Sir William, thought it our duty to abstain, each for himself, from interposing in the contest between the Neapolitan Government and Sicily. In this respect we were both without orders from our several Governments, who could not anticipate that the present expedition would assume the character of harshness and fury by which its proceedings are unfortunately distinguished.

The Ministers of France and England at the Court of Naples have therefore restricted themselves to benevolent advice, in order to induce the Government of this country, with a view to its own interest, not less than out of regard for the general interest of humanity, to suspend its expedition against Sicily.

The expedition was undertaken contrary to this advice, and we could only allow it to take its course. If you or I had opposed it previously to the attack on Messina, the Neapolitan Government would not have failed to complain, and it would have done so with an appearance of reason.

It would have alleged benevolent intentions towards Sicily, and that the instructions given to General Filangieri were moderate.

But now we see in what manner proceedings have been taken towards Messina, and what have been the results of the attack. That unhappy city has been attacked without a previous summons, without the least attempt at accommodation, and the struggle has assumed on both sides a character of vehemence and ferocity which leads to the anticipation of the most horrible scenes, in case it should be prolonged.

Blood calls for blood; vengeance calls for vengeance; atrocities committed by one party would necessarily lead on the side of the other to terrible and long reprisals.

My conscience, therefore, my dear Sir William, warns me that it is my duty so put a stop to this deadly struggle, at least until the intentions of my Government are known to me. I have up to this time sufficiently respected the rules of neutrality; the sacred laws of humanity must have their turn, and I announce to you that I am giving orders to the different commanders of the French forces on the coast of Sicily to oppose the continuance of hostilities.

If you deem it right on your part to co-operate in this measure, I shall see with satisfaction that the forces of our two nations act in a common sentiment of benevolence towards the two belligerent parties, in order to prevent fresh calamities.

In the contrary case I shall not the less follow the line of conduct which appears now to be marked out for me by reason and by humanity.

Receive, &c.

(Signed) CHS. BAUDIN.

Inclosure 6 in No. 297.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Hibernia," Naples, September 10, 1848.

AT 11 o'clock last night I received by the French steam-vessel "Pluton" the despatches from Captain Robb, detailing the particulars of the fall of Messina after a fierce bombardment of five days by the Neapolitan forces, and a courageous defence by the Sicilians, until the town was on fire in eleven places, rendered desolate by the flight of its wretched inhabitants, and the ammunition of the Sicilians totally expended.

Your Lordship will read this report with unmixed pain.

But there appears to have been a ferocity on the part of the Neapolitans in continuing the bombardment with unabated fury for eight hours after resistance had ceased, for which a parallel can scarcely be found in the records of civilized warfare; and the spirit evinced by the unfortunate inhabitants of Messina may be also taken as an index of devotion to their cause, which pervades nearly the whole population of the island.

The voice of humanity imperatively calls for some expedient to prevent a repetition of such devastation at other points.

In the belief that the sympathies of all Europe will be roused by the deplorable destruction of a city by which thousands of helpless beings are become houseless and destitute of any means of subsistence, and under the conviction that such a war cannot be prolonged for any useful purpose; understanding also that the Neapolitan Government has hitherto disregarded the advice given by your Lordship and the Ministers of other Powers to postpone the attack of Messina with the hope of some amicable adjustment by mediation; I am induced to hope that your Lordship will as a last effort at once urge the Government to order an immediate suspension of hostilities which may relieve me from the necessity of adopting any measure to enforce an armistice (now most desirable) until reference can be made to Her Britannic Majesty's Government, in concert with her allies, for the settlement of this lamentable contest.

Instructions on this point may indeed be expected by every packet, and I flatter myself that the principle of humanity which prompts this appeal will be responded to with corresponding desire on the part of the Neapolitan Government to arrest the desolating consequences of a war continued in such a reciprocal spirit of rancour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 7 in No. 297.

Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.

Naples, September 10, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., had the honour to address to his Excellency the Prince of Cariati, &c., on the 29th ultimo a note in which the Undersigned ventured to submit to his Excellency the expediency of treating with the Government at Palermo under the concerted mediation of Great Britain and France, before having recourse to the last expedient of sending forth an armament to reduce the Sicilians by force of arms.

The Undersigned has not received any reply to those amicable proposals, but he has been the witness of a powerful expedition directed against that nation, and he has this morning been informed in detail of the occupation of Messina by the Royal troops.

The operations of the Neapolitan forces were by the testimony of the officers of Her Britannic Majesty's Navy, spectators of that cruel scene, not effected without the exercise of severities very rare and never justifiable, above all in civil warfare; while the spirit of resistance developed by the Messinese and their allies was of a character so desperate and savage as to induce the apprehension that the prosecution of the present hostilities between the army of His Majesty the King and the Sicilian population is more likely to entail a long train of calamities involving a useless devastation and sacrifice of human life, than to effect any political sentiment based upon conditions and sentiments pregnant with durable concord and common prosperity.

The contemplation of this unhappy alternative, either the prolonged and unsuccessful efforts of the Royal troops to accomplish the subjugation of an infuriated people, or the scarcely less miserable result of the unconditional and hollow submission of that people to a Government which they would seize the first occasion to overturn, has produced such a deep impression on the mind of the Commander-in-chief of Her Britannic Majesty's naval forces as well as on the Undersigned, that they are unwilling to dismiss all hopes of an accommodation between the parties at issue, founded on their mutual interests and those benevolent dispositions by which both must surely be inspired at heart.

The Undersigned will therefore once more respectfully but earnestly entreat the Government of His Sicilian Majesty to attempt the way of negotiation, and to send orders for the cessation of active hostilities, with the view of establishing an armistice binding equally on the contending forces until the resolutions of the Cabinets of Great Britain and France can be ascertained; and so profoundly is the expediency of this course felt by the Undersigned and Vice-

Admiral Sir William Parker, that the latter in the accompanying communication has intimated his intention in a contingency which the Undersigned can scarcely contemplate, to employ his authority in imposing a temporary suspension of arms, believing that by doing so he would consult the permanent welfare of the Neapolitan Government and the advancement of that general peace in Europe which is menaced by the shock of so many unprecedented and conflicting passions.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

No. 298.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 18.)

My Lord,

Naples, September 10, 1848.

ON the day before yesterday M. de Rayneval informed me that the Russian Minister had strongly represented to the King the expediency of offering some acceptable conditions to the Government at Palermo through the channel of the Legations of Great Britain and France, alleging that the capture of Messina gave His Majesty an occasion to negotiate with manifest advantage. The King according to Count Chreptowitch's account appeared to consent, and M. de Rayneval was in expectation of receiving some communication consequent on the counsels offered by the Minister of Russia.

It is much to be regretted that such has not proved the case, and that the suspension of hostilities now enforced by the Commander-in-chief was not previously proposed by the spontaneous impulse of His Sicilian Majesty.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

No. 299.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—Received September 18.)

(Extract.)

Naples, September 10, 1848.

THE unexpected and spontaneous resolution embraced by Admiral Baudin placed us in a momentary perplexity from which we have not been able to issue without committing Her Majesty's Legation and Her Majesty's naval forces to a course of policy scarcely perhaps reconcilable with strict principle, very possibly averse to your Lordship's inclinations, but as it appears to me imperative, considering the pressure of circumstances and our double relations towards France and Sicily.

I never advised the arrest of the Neapolitan expedition though I certainly witnessed its departure with concern; and had the hostilities been prefaced by some offer of specific terms of a nature however little plausible, or even prosecuted with that respect for life and property usual in civilized warfare, the Royal forces might have proceeded to the reduction of the island without question or obstacle on the part of Her Majesty's Legation or Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

But the Neapolitans have brought themselves into their present dilemma by a method of war so barbarous as even to astonish the experience and rouse the veteran sensibilities of Admiral Baudin; and your Lordship will observe that Sir William Parker is not less deeply moved by the useless sufferings inflicted on the inhabitants of Messina.

Were I to add to the official narrative of Captain Robb the particulars of atrocity credibly reported to have been committed on either side, your Lordship would recognise a deplorable analogy between the late events and the ferocious rancour of the wars of liberty and revolution in Spain.

The consequences contingent on a prosecution of hostilities which had at an early period acquired so dark a complexion might well be thought to justify that modified intervention involved in a compulsory armistice, and if the previous policy of the British Government in parallel cases, and the tutelary autho-

city benevolently exercised by the Great Powers of Europe in composing the dissensions of their less powerful allies, seem to sanction such a measure, its adoption in the present case was recommended by the ancient claims which the people of Sicily may surely be allowed to possess on the sympathies and succour of Great Britain.

What the Neapolitan Government may think fit to answer I do not venture to predict. Prince Cariati seemed to labour under considerable exasperation, but I will endeavour to employ the conciliatory influence of Count Chreptowich in shaping the counsels of the Neapolitan Cabinet to the only reasonable solution in their present emergency, namely, the acceptance of an armistice and the calm discussion of the proposals your Lordship may resolve upon in concert with the Government of France.

No. 300.

Mr. Addington to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 20, 1848.

I AM directed by Viscount Palmerston to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that he has approved a note addressed by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Naples to the Neapolitan Government, urging them to order an immediate cessation of hostilities, and inclosing a letter which he had received from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, intimating that Sir William intended if necessary to support this advice by the employment of force.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. U. ADDINGTON.

No. 301.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 21.)

(Extract.)

Naples, September 12, 1848.

COUNT CHREPTOWITCH at my earnest request waited upon the King yesterday morning and offered His Majesty the strongest advice to forward telegraphic orders for the suspension of hostilities in Sicily.

His Excellency urged the expediency of such a measure by all the arguments which could be adduced from the domestic condition of the Neapolitan Government, from the attitude maintained by Sicily, the relations and policy of the different European Cabinets, and His Majesty's own personal dignity and interests.

The King requested time for reflection, but appeared to attach a greater importance to the abstract right and justice of his cause in persevering in the reduction of Sicily, than a calm and politic review of his position at the present moment would seem to justify.

His Majesty was bent on considering the subject in its simplest and narrowest proportions without any collateral reference to the sympathies and declarations of foreign countries or the elements of agitation and disorder which the continuation of the war might stimulate in his own dominions and in the other States of Italy.

Count Chreptowitch intreated the King to regard this momentous question in a larger sense, and his Excellency was the better enabled to do so by having repeatedly spoken in a similar sense before the resolution of the French Commander-in-chief had been declared.

No. 302.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 21.)

My Lord,

Naples, September 12, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a note which I have this morning received from his Excellency the Prince of Cariati, in reply to the combined representation of Vice-Admiral Parker and myself, forwarded in my despatch to your Lordship of the 10th instant.

Prince Cariati casts some doubt upon the accuracy of the reports of the officers of Her Majesty's squadron and that of France, respecting the barbarity practised by the Neapolitan forces at Messina, and declares that until the receipt of detailed official intelligence he cannot return a conclusive reply to our remonstrances.

The Prince also alleges that any measures which Sir William Parker may embrace in carrying out his views for the pacification of Sicily will be hostile to your Lordship's wishes, and he claims for the Neapolitan Government that freedom from foreign intervention and constraint which is due to an independent State.

As there appears to be no useful aim in the prolongation of an official correspondence with the Neapolitan Government upon this subject, I have simply acknowledged the receipt of his Excellency's communication and imparted it to the Commander-in-chief.

I had however informed Prince Cariati in a previous conversation on the evening of the 10th instant, that whatever may have been the alleged opinions of your Lordship as related by Prince Casteleiccala, and conveyed to me by the Neapolitan Government, I could not accept such intelligence as an absolute rule for my guidance in the absence of direct instructions; and I stated to his Excellency that if those reports were to have had any influence in shaping my resolutions they ought to have been properly imparted to me in reply to my letter of the 29th ultimo, which was left unanswered.

Nor did I conceal from Prince Cariati that my position was now entirely changed, and that I reserved to myself in conjunction with Sir William Parker a full liberty of unfettered action until your Lordship's will could be ascertained.

Her Majesty's ship "Superb" proceeded to Palermo yesterday, with orders to impede the landing of any Neapolitan force at that capital; and I believe that further instructions in a similar sense will be forwarded by Her Majesty's steam-frigate "Sidon" in the course of this afternoon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 302.*Prince Cariati to Lord Napier.*

Napoli, li 11 Settembre, 1848.

IL Sottoscritto, &c., ha ricevuto la nota di Lord Napier, &c., con l'unitavi copia di un ufficio del Vice-Ammiraglio Parker, con le quali narrando i casi della presa di Messina eseguita dalle Reali truppe, invitano entrambi il Real Governo a concludere un armistizio co' Siciliani, sino a che potranno esser note le risoluzioni de' Gabinetti della Gran Bretagna e di Francia sull' oggetto, e tentare di nuovo la via delle negoziazioni.

Avendo il Sottoscritto ragion di credere che i rapporti che han dato luogo alle osservazioni ed a' suggerimenti del Signor Incaricato di Affari, sieno, come spesso è avvenuto nel corso degli avvenimenti che da otto mesi affliggono la Sicilia, alquanto esagerati; egli prima di riscontrare convenientemente la sudetta nota, stima necessario attendere i rapporti uffiziali del Comandante della spedizione di Messina, che tardar non possono de giungere al Real Governo. E tale dilazione diviene tanto più necessaria in quanto che dal rapporto telegrafico pervenuto jeri, di cui il Signor Incaricato troverà qui unito copia, è evidente che la popolazione rientra in città e che l'ordine vi si va rapidamente ristabilendo.

Il Sottoscritto intanto dichiara a Lord Napier, che qualunque fossero le misure che dal Vice-Ammiraglio Parker potrebbero venir adottate dirette a frastornare i piani del Real Governo, con manifesta violazione de' diritti di un Sovrano libero ed indipendente e de' riguardi dovuti ad una Potenza unica, dovranno necessariamente considerarsi come atto della propria volontà, e non già come conseguenza delle intenzioni del Governo Britannico; dappoichè Lord Palmerston ha ripetute volte assicurato il Regio Ministro in Londra, e particolarmente nella conferenza del 4 dello scorso Agosto, che il Governo di Sua Maestà Britannica non avrebbe recato impedimento di sorta alcuna alla spedizione militare che andavasi da questo Real Governo preparando per ricondurre in Sicilia l'ordine e la tranquillità, e sottrarla al giogo di una mano di facinorosi, i quali, sebbene in piccol numero, con la loro audacia e col terrore dominano ed opprimono la gran maggioranza de' loro concittadini, e continuamente minacciarli, nelle sostanze e nella vita.

Il Sottoscritto non può astenersi dal far osservare al Signor Incaricato di Affari, il pessimo effetto che la sua nota produrrebbe nella mente de' rivoltosi di Sicilia, qualora pervenisse a loro cognizione, dappoichè, fatti ancora più certi della protezione e del buon volere degli Agenti Britannici e Francesi a loro riguardo, sarebbero vie maggiormente indotti a perdurare in quelle sfrenate passioni ed inaudite pretenzioni che han resa finora inutile ed impossibile ogni via di riconciliazioni tra le due parti del Reame delle Due Sicilie.

Il Sottoscritto prega il Signor Incaricato di Affari di dar cognizione della presente nota al Vice-Ammiraglio Parker, ed assicurare al medesimo che per parte del Real Governo si porrà tutto in opera per alleviare i mali inseparabili dalla guerra.

Profitta, &c.
(Firmato) PCE. DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, September 11, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has received the note of Lord Napier, &c., inclosing copy of an official letter from Vice-Admiral Parker, in which after narrating the circumstances attending the taking of Messina by the Royal troops, they both invite the King's Government to conclude an armistice with the Sicilians, until the determination of the Cabinets of Great Britain and France upon the subject should be known, and to attempt afresh the method of negotiation.

As the Undersigned has reason to believe that the reports which have given rise to the suggestions and observations of the Chargé d'Affaires are somewhat exaggerated, as indeed has been frequently the case with respect to the occurrences which during the last eight months have afflicted Sicily, he will wait for the official reports from the Commander of the expedition to Messina, which must ere long reach the King's Government, before giving a suitable reply to the said note; and this delay becomes the more necessary, inasmuch as it appears from the telegraphic report which arrived yesterday, and of which copy is inclosed, that the population is returning into the city, and that order is being rapidly re-established.

The Undersigned at the same time declares to Lord Napier, that whatever may be the measures which Vice-Admiral Parker may adopt for the purpose of embracing the plans of the King's Government, in manifest violation of the rights of a free and independent Sovereign, and that consideration which is due to a friendly Power, those measures must necessarily be considered as spontaneous on his part, and not in accordance with the intentions of the British Government, because Lord Palmerston has repeatedly assured the King's Minister in London, and especially on the occasion of the interview he had with him on the 4th of last August, that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty would oppose no kind of obstacle in the way of the military expedition which this Government was preparing for the purpose of re-establishing order and tranquillity in Sicily, and of freeing her from the yoke of a band of evil-disposed persons who, although few in numbers, yet by their audacity and the terror which they inspire, oppress and lord it over the great majority of their fellow-citizens, whose lives and properties they are continually threatening.

The Undersigned cannot abstain from begging the Chargé d'Affaires to remark the very bad effect which his note would have upon the Sicilian revolvers, if it should come to their knowledge, for if they be made still more sure of the protection and goodwill of the British and French Agents, they will be the more induced to persist in those unbridled passions and unheard-of pretensions which up to this time have rendered every attempt at reconciliation between the two parts of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies fruitless and impossible.

The Undersigned begs that the Chargé d'Affaires will lay this note before Vice-Admiral Parker and assure him that the King's Government will take every means in their power to lessen the evils inseparable from war.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) PRINCE OF CARIATI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 302.

Telegraphic Despatch from Messina.

Napoli, 10 Settembre, 1848.

Rapporto Telegrafico a Sua Maestà.

A Tenente-Generale Filangieri in Messina.

GL' incendi sono cessati. La sicurezza garantita alle persone ed alle proprietà fan rientrare la popolazione. Il Governo Municipale è installato. Milazzo sottomesso. Il vapore "Vesuvio" predato. La crociera lungo tutte le coste è attivata.

Messina, alle ore 8 A.M.

(Translation.)

Naples, September 10, 1848.

Telegraphic despatch to His Majesty.

Lieutenant-General Filangieri in Messina.

THE burning has ceased. Security being guaranteed for persons and property, the inhabitants begin to return. The Municipal Government is established. Milazzo has made its submission. The steamer "Vesuvio" is captured. The blockade along the coast established.

Messina, 8 A.M.

No. 303.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, "Hibernia," Naples, September 11, 1848, 6 A.M.

HAVING accidentally learnt that a French steamer is to proceed to Toulon this morning at 8 o'clock, I anxiously avail myself of the earliest opportunity to transmit for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the accompanying copy of a despatch* which I have received from Captain Robb at 11 P.M. of the 9th instant, reporting the fall of Messina, which was taken possession of by the Neapolitans on the 7th instant, after sustaining courageously a furious bombardment of five days, during which the whole of the Neapolitan forces, amounting to 14,000, were landed, and the city reduced to a state of utter desolation, the wretched inhabitants having all fled for their lives, the flames spreading in no less than eleven places, and the whole of the ammunition of the Sicilians expended.

2. This barbarous bombardment of Messina appears to have been recklessly persevered in for eight hours after resistance had ceased, and the consequences have been most deplorable; but I will not take up the time of their Lordships

* See Inclosure 1 in No. 297.

by recapitulating the scenes of devastation and suffering which Captain Robb's letter so fully depicts. The humane exertions of himself, the officers and crew of the "Gladiator" and "Bulldog," and those of the French line-of-battle ship "Hercule" and two steamers, saved the lives of numbers of hapless victims who sought refuge on board; their generous succour was unremitting and above all praise.

3. These sad accounts brought by the French steamer "Pluton" were obligingly forwarded to be by Vice-Admiral Baudin from the Island of Ischia, with intimation that the "Pomone" screw-frigate would be immediately dispatched to Messina, which enabled me to convey to Captain Robb my approval of his conduct.

4. At 6 A.M. of the 10th I received from the Vice-Admiral a letter* apprising me that he had from motives of humanity ordered the French forces on the coast of Sicily to oppose the continuation of hostilities between the Neapolitans and Sicilians, and inviting me to join in this measure.

5. As the screw-frigate "Pomone" was then under weigh with those instructions for Messina, I had merely time to address a few hasty lines in a private note to communicate the course resolved on by the French Admiral to Captain Robb, and to desire him to continue his exertions in softening as much as possible the severities of the war and to maintain the most friendly intercourse with the French ships, but not to interfere with the Neapolitans without instructions from myself, with permission however to express my concurrence in the expediency of an armistice, and to state verbally to the Commander of the Neapolitan forces in any casual conversation, my abhorrence of the severities which had been practised on the unfortunate Sicilians.

Lord Napier being at Castellamare I was not able to put Admiral Baudin's communication into his hands before the afternoon when his Lordship came on board the "Hibernia," and as we concurred in opinion that an armistice was most desirable, and that the corresponding sympathies of Great Britain towards Sicily should not lie dormant, I took upon myself the responsibility of addressing the letter No. 4 to Lord Napier† urging him to request of the Neapolitan Government an immediate suspension of hostilities until reference can be had to Her Majesty's Government for the settlement of this rancorous war, in concert with Her Majesty's allies, and I ventured to intimate that measures might be taken to enforce this object if necessary.

I am aware that in so doing I have exceeded my authority delegated to me by their Lordships, and it has not been without much reflection that I have presumed so far, but I hope, under due consideration of the circumstances in which I have been so unexpectedly placed, that the measure will not be censured, and if I have erred in judgment I am sure that Her Majesty's Government will give me credit for proper intentions in the absence of instructions to meet this peculiar case.

The whole of the correspondence is now laid before their Lordships, and I shall await their decision with increased anxiety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 303.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Captain Robb.

Sir,

"*Hibernia, Naples, September 9, 1848, 11h. 30m. P.M.*

I HAD scarcely time to read your despatch of the 8th instant and its various inclosures, received an hour ago by the French steamer "Pluton," before intimation was obligingly given me by the Captain of the French frigate "Pomone," that the "Pluton" will return within two hours from this time for Messina.

I hasten therefore to convey my unqualified approbation of all the measures you have adopted to prevent as much as possible an unnecessary effusion of blood, and to afford shelter to the unfortunate Sicilians who sought refuge on

* See Inclosure 5 in No. 297.

† See Inclosure 6 in No. 297.

board Her Majesty's ships during the calamitous destruction of their property by the bombardment of Messina.

Everything appears to have been done by yourself and the Captains of the French ships that humanity could suggest to ameliorate their sufferings, and I entirely concur in your determination not to force these unhappy people to land without some assurance from the Neapolitan General that they would not be subjected to further severities, and also that you had decided in conjunction with Captain Nonay of the "*Hercule*," to remove them for safety to Milazzo, Catania, and Palermo, in consequence of the refusal of the General to guarantee their safety at Messina.

I likewise approve of your intention to send the "*Bulldog*" to Malta.

I was sorry that I had not another steamer available to assist in your highly commendable exertions in behalf of the suffering Sicilians.

Proper protection for British subjects who have been resident at Messina has I presume been duly claimed from the General commanding the Neapolitan forces, and I conclude that he will not withhold this necessary guarantee, and that they will remain in security, though it is to be feared almost houseless and with a great part of their property destroyed.

I regret that the conditions proposed by the Sicilians, when their position became hopeless, were not better calculated to have effected a cessation of the bombardment; but I shall be glad to know whether any demonstration was made on their part when no longer resisting, by striking their flag or hoisting that of the Neapolitans in token of submission, to induce the latter to withhold their fire; and I wish also to be informed whether it appears that any terms of capitulation or summons to surrender were at any time made to the Sicilians, verbally or in writing, before the bombardment commenced.

I cannot conclude without expressing my satisfaction that all your measures have been carried on with such perfect cordiality with Captain Nonay and the officers of the other French ships for the great object of lessening the evils of war and preserving an honourable observance of our neutral position.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 303.

Lord Napier to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

Naples, September 10, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, inclosing copy of despatches from Captain Robb of Her Majesty's steam frigate "*Gladiator*," descriptive of the horrors attending the late capture of the city of Messina by the Neapolitan troops.

I avail myself of this occasion to reiterate to your Excellency my perfect coincidence with the sentiments entertained by you on this occasion, and with the course contemplated in the contingency of the refusal of the Neapolitan Government to arrest the progress of hostilities for the purpose of establishing an armistice until the resolution of Her Majesty's Government be known.

I have imparted a copy of your Excellency's letter to Prince Cariati with the accompanying note,* embodying the sense of your communication.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 304.

The Marquis of Normanby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 21.)

(Extract.)

Paris, September 20, 1848.

GENERAL CAVAIGNAC has just mentioned to me that in consequence of the atrocious barbarities committed on both sides during the late conflict at Messina, the French Government was determined to adopt without reserve the

* See Inclosure 7 in No. 297.

step taken by the French Admiral, though without any precise instructions, of interposing summarily to prevent the continuation of hostilities. He trusted that Her Majesty's Government, actuated by the same motives of humanity, would concur in this proceeding. It would, if so, become expedient for the two Powers to consider what should be the basis of the arrangement which this interposition would render necessary. The French Government would not willingly promote any settlement which would tend to the complete separation of Sicily from the Kingdom of Naples. What they would wish to propose would be an independent Constitution, upon somewhat the model of that of 1812, under a Viceroy appointed by the King of Naples.

No. 305.

Viscount Palmerston to the Marquis of Normanby.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 22, 1848.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 15th instant inclosing copies of the telegraphic despatches which the French Government has received from Naples reporting the capture of Messina by the Neapolitan troops; and with regard to the present posture of affairs in Sicily I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are inclined to take the same view of this matter which is suggested by the French Minister at Naples in his despatch to M. Bastide, and to recommend to the contending parties a settlement by which the Crown of Sicily should remain on the head of the King of Naples, while on the other hand the Parliament, the Administration, and the troops stationed in Sicily should be entirely Sicilian.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 306.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 22, 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 10th instant, reporting the bombardment of Messina and inclosing copies of the letter addressed to you by Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, requesting you to urge upon the Neapolitan Government the expediency of ordering an immediate cessation of active operations, and of the note which you in consequence addressed to Prince Cariati intimating to him that it was the intention of Sir William Parker to support this advice if necessary by the employment of force.

In reply I have to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve of your note to Prince Cariati and the step which has been taken by you and Sir William Parker.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 307.

Consul Goodwin to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 23.)

My Lord,

Palermo, September 15, 1848.

AS A French steamer is about to proceed to Marseilles direct I think it right to avail myself of her to acquaint your Lordship with the present state of affairs by writing to your Lordship through the medium of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, instead of through the usual medium of Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Naples.

The President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs have declared to me that this Government engages to suspend hostilities, "salvo pregiudizio alla causa nazionale."

I have now the honour to report that the same functionaries repeated to me yesterday the same declaration with the same salvo in the presence of Captain Corry of Her Majesty's ship "Superb" and the Honourable Captain Pelham of Her Majesty's steam-frigate "Odin;" and further, that these functionaries engaged to suspend hostilities until advices should be received from the Governments of England and France.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship No. 108 of the official journal, containing a notification from the Minister of the Interior to the following effect:

"England and France have imposed an armistice on the King of Naples. This Government having been requested to adhere thereto, without in any wise compromising the Sicilian cause, has replied in the affirmative. Meantime the Government does not cease from the armament, in order that it may better sustain the rights of Sicily in every case."

I have, &c.
(Signed) JNO. GOODWIN.

Inclosure in No 307.

Extract from the "Governo del Regno di Sicilia."

Buletino Ufficiale del Mattino.

L'INGHILTERRA e la Francia hanno imposto l'armistizio al Re di Napoli. E richiesto questo Governo se vi aderisse, senza compromettere per nulla la causa Siciliana, si è risposto con l'affermativo.

Intanto il Governo non cessa dall'armamento, onde in ogni caso possa meglio sostenere i dritti della Sicilia.

Palermo, 13 Settembre, 1848.

Il Ministro dell' Interno e della Sicurezza Pubblica,
VITO D'ONDES REGGIO.

(Translation.)

Official Bulletin of the morning.

ENGLAND and France have imposed the armistice on the King of Naples; and this Government having been asked if it adhered thereto, without committing the Sicilian cause in any way, has replied in the affirmative. †

The Government in the meantime has not discontinued the armament, that it may in every case better maintain the rights of Sicily.

Palermo, September 13, 1848.

The Minister of the Interior and of Public Safety,
(Signed) VITO D'ONDES REGGIO.

No. 308.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 23.)

My Lord,

Naples, September 13, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship copy of an instruction to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, apprizing him of the overtures made by the Legations of Great Britain and France to the Neapolitan Government, with the view of bringing about a cessation of hostilities.

I have directed Mr. Goodwin to insist with the Sicilian Government on the necessity of arresting all offensive movements on their side and preparing the Parliament and the public for the unprejudiced consideration of the terms which may be recommended by the British and French Cabinets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 308.

Lord Napier to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Naples, September 11, 1848.

I AVAIL myself of the departure of Her Majesty's ship "Superb" for Palermo to inform you that in consequence of the excesses practised by the Neapolitan forces in the capture of Messina, a strong concerted remonstrance has been addressed to the Government of His Sicilian Majesty by the Legations of Great Britain and France.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker and Admiral Baudin have pressed upon the consideration of the Neapolitan Cabinet the expediency of concluding an armistice without delay until the opinions of England and France be ascertained, and you will be apprized by the inclosed communications that in case of necessity the advice of the Commanders-in-chief will be supported by force.

In acquainting the Government of Sicily of these particulars, which you will do by reading to Marquis Torreausa this despatch and its inclosures, you will urge upon them the necessity of contributing by every means to the suspension of hostilities.

They will do well to prepare the Parliament and the public for the unprejudiced consideration of whatever proposal the mediating Powers may recommend, and to weigh the consequences of an unprovoked renewal of warfare against the Neapolitan Government, which by a concurrence of events favourable to its power has been enabled to bring into the field such an imposing force.

I regret the unavoidable delay in forwarding the present instruction, caused by absence of all the steam-vessels attached to Her Majesty's squadron at the present moment, the last at the Vice-Admiral's disposal having been dispatched to the succour of the fugitives at Messina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 309.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 23.)

My Lord,

Naples, September 13, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter* addressed to me by Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, containing a report from Captain Robb, together with its inclosures, by which your Lordship will learn that General Filangieri has consented to suspend all further hostilities for the present.

I have been assured that on the morning of the 10th instant General Filangieri was instructed by telegraph to accept the overtures of the officers of the respective squadrons for a cessation of operations, but in the meantime to make a dash at Catania and Syracuse before the pacification could be carried into effect.

The loss of the Neapolitans is estimated by Captain Robb at 1500 killed and wounded, the Neapolitan accounts confess to 1000.

It would appear certain that the bombardment of the town was commenced without the offer of any conditions, and that it was continued for several hours after the fire of the Sicilian batteries had been silenced and all their colours struck.

The inclosed despatch from Her Majesty's Consul relates that on the 11th instant the excesses of the troops had not entirely ceased, and that Her Majesty's ensign exhibited by the English merchants to protect their lives and dwellings was frequently insulted.

I have brought these facts to the knowledge of his Excellency the Prince of Carini, to whom I have also communicated Sir William Parker's letter in the accompanying note† expressive of our common hope that the judicious resolution of General Filangieri will be sanctioned by the approval of the Neapolitan Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

* See Inclosure 3 in No. 295.

† See Inclosure 11 in No. 295.

Inclosure in No. 309.

*Vice-Consul Barker to Lord Napier.*My Lord, *"Gladiator," Messina, September 11, 1848.*

ON the 8th instant the Neapolitan troops took full possession of the town and fortified heights.

After burning whole streets they sacked the principal shops and some houses, and committed the most unheard of ravages.

It is reported that Milazzo has surrendered to the King's troops.

This morning three Neapolitan steamers and three frigates left this port for the southward.

Many complaints have been made by British subjects of insults received from the soldiery. The British ensign hoisted by the English residents for the protection of their property, has been in many instances grossly disrespected.

The Greek Consul in uniform was stabbed in different parts of the body by the soldiers, and had his house plundered and burnt down.

The injury done to property is immense, and many British subjects are left houseless.

The plundering of foreigners' houses continues. A fire is still seen in town.

I have, &c.

For W. W. Barker,

(Signed) ROBERT BARKER.

No. 310.

*Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 23.)*My Lord, *Naples, September 12, 18*

I HAVE mentioned to your Lordship in a previous despatch, that in a conversation with Prince Cariati on the evening of the 10th instant, in the presence of M. de Rayneval, his Excellency informed me that your Lordship had clearly declared to Prince Castelcicala that Her Majesty's squadron would in no way impede the operations of the Neapolitans against Sicily. In fact I believe it was in consequence of some such assurance that the long-deferred expedition actually took place.

The language of Prince Cariati however considerably abstracted from the weight which I might otherwise have attached to his communication, nor did the alleged manner of Prince Castelcicala's report tend to increase my confidence.

The latter is declared by Prince Cariati to state that on being plainly asked whether Sir William Parker would stop the expedition your Lordship replied with an emphasis of which Prince Cariati endeavoured to offer some imitation, "No, no, no!" with more of that sort.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 311.

*Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 23.)*My Lord, *Naples, September 13, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, manifesting on the part of the Sicilians a marked aversion to treat with the King of Naples even for a Prince of his Family, in case the refusal of the Duke of Genoa should be substantiated.

The accompanying letter from Marquis Torreaarsa breathes the same spirit.

It must be remembered that these communications were forwarded before the news of the capture of Messina had reached Palermo, and that this disaster may render the Sicilians less uncompromising in their pretensions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 311.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, September 6, 1848.

THE landing of the Neapolitans at Mare Grosso near Messina was no sooner known in Parliament on the 3rd instant, than it was resolved to take the church plate and raise money upon it for the service of the war. This resolution is carrying into immediate effect. Arms, ammunition, money, and provisions have been dispatched to Spadafora, between Milazzo and Messina, together with a volunteer force 1000 strong headed by La Masa. The news of the firing which followed shortly raised public anxiety to the highest pitch, at which it has ever since remained. Yesterday the news that the enemy had been compelled to re-embark with great loss after a furious combat relieved public apprehension, which has revived this day at the tidings of Messina being in ruins and the firing having been renewed yesterday morning. A determined spirit of resolution to resist the invader appears to animate all classes of society.

At Catania, the defences of which are feeble, measures are taking to collect armed bands and to erect barricades at the entrances to the city.

I have thought it advisable under present circumstances to communicate the kind offer of your Lordship's intervention to the Marchese Torrearsa, by whom it was gratefully received. He quietly observed that this Government had no proposals to make to that of Naples.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 311.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, September 6, 1848.

I HAVE this morning seen the Marchese Torrearsa and Don Ruggiero Settimo. I have learned from the former that he will send me a letter for your Lordship to go by the "Friedland," descriptive of the state of affairs, and from the latter that no overtures will be made to Naples should the refusal be ascertained.

He also told me that the suggestions of the French commander at Messina to treat for an armistice had been decidedly rejected. He showed me the reports from Messina, by which it appears that the Messinese are resolved to hurry themselves under the ruins of their town rather than to submit to Ferdinand. Lastly, he desired me to bear witness to the spirit of the Parliament with whose members I am in constant intercourse, a request with which I readily comply.

The "Palermo" sailed for Milazzo last night with stores and reinforcements for Messina.

La Masa and his party landed safely at Spadafora, and proceeded without delay to Messina.

The Swiss we hear were repulsed with the loss of some prisoners.

The estafette with the mail by the French steamer is not yet arrived from Messina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 311.

The Marquis Torrearsa to Lord Napier.

Eccellenza,

Palermo, 6 Settembre, 1848.

FINALMENTE il Rè di Napoli ha fatto sperimentare la sua vendetta alla prode città di Messina. Ma Iddio, che protegge i popoli che pugnano per la propria libertà, ha raddoppiato il valore dei Siciliani.

Dal giorno 3 sino ad oggi si combatte in Messina. Gli Svizzeri che eseguirono il primo sbarco sul lido di Mare Grosso, punto protetto dal fuoco della cittadella, furono da' nostri nuovi soldati respinti e ricacciati nel mare alla bajonetta. Soldati giovani e quasi ignari d'ogni disciplina hanno saputo vincere le vecchie milizie Svizzere.

Da questo solo fatto vegga vostra Eccellenza quale sia il forte proponimento de' Siciliani. Le milizie del Rè di Napoli non hanno più osato di mettere piede a terra; ma la cittadella ha lanciato un fuoco distruttore sulla valorosa Messina. Dalle nostre batterie si è risposto, e già il forte Don Blasco appartenente a' Regj è del tutto smantellato, e il forte del Salvatore anco de' Regj, lo è in gran parte.

La lotta dura, ma la determinazione di tutti i Siciliani non fa dubitare del risultato. Le città potranno essere bruciate, le nostre campagne devastate, ma la conquista degli uomini sarà impossibile al Borbone di Napoli. Qual sia l'ardore de' Siciliani tutti per la causa della libertà e della indipendenza non ho parole ad esprimerlo. Tutte le città dell' isola accolsero con gioia e con dimostrazioni di allegrezza il solo annunzio della minacciata invasione; ed ora colla rabbia della più profonda passione si apprestano alla disperata difesa.

In quanto alla offerta de' suoi buoni uffici in caso che questo Governo, per la ricusa del Duca di Genova, potesse trattare col Rè di Napoli, non posso che ringraziarla della sua umana intenzione, e riconoscere nella premura datasi quella sollecitudine che sempre vostra Eccellenza ha dimostrato a vantaggio della Sicilia. Però debbo ripeterle quanto altre volte le ho detto cioè, essere impossibile qualunque composizione tra la Sicilia ed i Borboni, e che le presenti crudeltà esercitate contro Messina hanno finito di ribadire una tale forte opinione in noi tutti. La ricusa del Duca di Genova certo sarebbe per noi spiacevole, ma non mai utile ai Borboni di Napoli; e se mai la guerra potesse spingere agli estremi la sorte di questo popolo è da attendersene non vantaggio ai Borboni, ma determinazioni estreme e quali potriano essere suggerite dalle passioni del momento.

Le grandi nazioni alle quali per destino superemo è affidate la sorte della umanità se si avessero la profonda conoscenza dello stato nostro per certo arresterebbero l'inutile effusione di sangue, e non attenderebbero che venissero bruciate ad una ad una le nostre città per interporci e farci dritto. Le Camere lo hanno solennemente giurato, e la Sicilia intera ha ripetuto questo giuramento. Nessuno parlerà di patti, nessuno vorrà transiggere, tutti siamo pronti a seppellirle sotto le rovine della nostra libertà.

Ho sentito con mia somma sorpresa che siesi costì deciso di portare innanzi una Corte Criminale gli sventurati prigionieri Siciliani. Un tale atto fa conoscere sempre più all' Europa intera come il Governo di Napoli sia sempre lo stesso, e non smetta mai le sue abitudini di tirannia. Noi mercede l'opera dell' Eccellenza vostra e del Rappresentante della Repubblica Francese, avevamo ragione a credere che i nostri dovcano esser trattati come prigionieri di guerra, e tutt' altro ci attendevamo che vederli condotti innanzi un tribunale quali malfattori, e ciò dopo che l'Inghilterra e la Francia ne hanno sposato la protezione, ed hanno salutato la nostra bandiera. Non dubito che l'Eccellenza vostra si interesserà di un sì grave avvenimento, e che farà in modo che il Governo di Napoli non continui ad insultare l'umanità e le civili nazioni di Europa.

La prego accettare, &c.

(Firmato) MARCHESE DI TORREARSA.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Palermo, September 6, 1848.

AT last the King of Naples has wreaked his vengeance on the brave town of Messina. But God, the protector of a people fighting for its liberty, has redoubled the courage of the Sicilians.

The battle has been kept up in Messina from the 3rd until this day. The Swiss who effected the first landing on the beach at Mare Grosso, a spot protected by the fire of the citadel, were repelled and driven into the sea by our raw recruits. Young and undisciplined soldiers have known how to conquer the veteran Swiss regiments.

From this fact alone you will be able to appreciate the fixed purpose of the Sicilians. The troops of the King of Naples have not dared again to put foot on shore, but the citadel has sent forth a destructive fire upon brave Messina, which was well answered from our batteries, and already Fort Don Blasco, which was occupied by the King's troops, has been entirely dismantled, as has been in great part Fort Salvatore, which is also in their possession.

The battle still rages, but the determination of all the Sicilians leaves no doubt as to the result. The cities may be burned, the country devastated, but the Bourbon of Naples will never conquer the men.

The ardour of the Sicilians in the cause of liberty and independence my words cannot express. Every town in the island received with demonstrations of joy and festivity the news of the threatened invasion, and now with the madness of a deep-rooted passion are preparing themselves for a desperate defence.

With regard to the proposal of your good offices in case that this Government, in consequence of the refusal of the Duke of Genoa, should wish to treat with the King of Naples, I must offer you my thanks for your humane intentions and promptitude, and assure you of my sense of the anxiety which you have always shown for the well-being of Sicily, but I must now repeat that which I have frequently said before, which is that Sicily cannot compound with the Bourbons, and that the cruelties now exercised upon Messina have served to rivet us all in this determination. The refusal of the Duke of Genoa would doubtless be disagreeable to us but no gain to the Bourbons of Naples, and if the chances of war should render the cause of this people desperate, no advantage would thereby accrue to the Bourbons, but those last wild measures which might be suggested by the passions of the moment would be the only result.

The great nations to whom is confided by Providence the administration of human destinies, had they but a perfect knowledge of our present condition could never await the burning of our cities one by one ere they would interpose and grant us justice.

The Chambers have sworn a solemn oath and Sicily at large has ratified it. None shall speak of terms; there shall be no compromise; we are all ready to be buried under the ruins of our liberty.

I have heard with astonishment that it has been decided in Naples to bring the unfortunate Sicilian prisoners before a criminal court. Such an act must teach us and Europe at large that the Government of Naples is always the same and can never lay aside its habits of tyranny. We had hoped that through your intercession and that of the Representative of the French Republic, our friends would have been treated as prisoners of war, and were not prepared to see them brought to trial as malefactors, after that England and France had protected us and had saluted our flag.

I do not doubt that you will interest yourself in this matter and will cause the Neapolitan Government to discontinue insulting humanity and the civilized nations of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARQUIS OF TORREARSA.

No. 312.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, September 23, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of two letters from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated Naples the 13th and 14th instant, with their inclosures in original, relating to the affairs of Naples and Sicily.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 312.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, September 13, 1848.

BEGGING to refer you to my letter of the 11th instant, I request you will inform the Lords of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's ship "Superb" sailed on the afternoon of that day with Lord Napier's despatches to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo on the subject of the appeal made to the Neapolitan Government by his Lordship and myself on the grounds of humanity, for a temporary armistice between the Neapolitan forces and the Sicilians. The copy of my instructions* to Captain Corry will be found marked No. 1, in the Schedule.

At midnight the "Sidon" returned from Leghorn, bringing Captain Codrington's detailed report of the late insurrection at that place, which was restored to a state of temporary quietude under a compromise between the Government of the Grand Duke and the insurrectionists. As soon as the "Sidon" had received pratique I dispatched her to endeavour to overtake the "Superb," and expedite the letter with which Captain Corry was charged to Palermo, and afterwards to proceed to Messina in order to ascertain if possible the extent of the devastation sustained by the late bombardment, the amount of killed and wounded on both sides, the number of the inhabitants who have returned to their habitations, and some other points connected with the attack which might afford some reason if not a justification of the barbarous and unrelenting fire to which it was for so many hours subjected, when no longer resisting.

In the afternoon of the 12th I received Lord Napier's letter inclosing a copy of Prince Cariati's reply* to his Lordship's note of the 10th, and the translation of a telegraphic message announcing the submission of Milazzo and the capture of the Sicilian steam-vessel "Vesuvio." This morning at 6 o'clock I received by the French steam-frigate "Panama," Captain Robb's despatch† of the 11th instant, conveying the satisfactory intelligence that the General commanding the Neapolitan forces had agreed to a joint proposition of himself and the Captain of the French ship "Hercule" for the suspension of hostilities and all ulterior military operations off the coast of Sicily, in order to prevent the effusion of blood until the Governments of France and England as mediators can settle the differences which oppose themselves to a general peace.

Although Prince Cariati would not hold out any promise of the Government agreeing to an armistice, I have reason to think that General Fiangieri was prepared by a telegraphic message to accede to a proposal of the nature required by Captains Robb and Nonay.

Captain Belvize of the French steam-frigate "Panama" confirms Captain Robb's statement that no terms of capitulation were offered nor any proclamation whatever made to the Sicilians before the bombardment began; that the flags on all their batteries were struck on the 6th, and not a single shot fired on the 7th, when the town was cannonaded for eight hours!

Captain Belvize adds that on the preceding days when the fire was returned by the Sicilians, their flag was kept flying at different points, and that when they were enduring this severe bombardment on the 7th, no national colours being hoisted, that a white flag was displayed in more than one place to indicate their non-resistance, which was wholly disregarded.

Captain Robb reports that a division of three Neapolitan frigates and three steamers proceeded on the 11th to Catania followed by the "Bulldog," which it was hoped would arrive in time to prevent the Catanese from exposing themselves to the destruction of their town by a resistance to the Neapolitans that would be fruitless, and as a notification appeared last night in the Government paper of Naples, that the Royal expedition had received the submission of the people of Catania and had proceeded towards Noto, there is every reason to believe that no troops were landed or force employed against the Catanese.

In consequence of Captain Robb's communications I have addressed the

* See Inclosure 1 in No. 296.

† See Inclosure 1 in No. 302.

† See Inclosure 4 in No. 295.

letter* numbered 4 to Lord Napier, in the hope that it will not be found necessary to issue any orders to Her Majesty's ships for restraining the hostile operations of the Neapolitans.

Captain Robb has displayed very good judgment in the manner in which he united himself with the captain of the "Hercule" in proposing to the Neapolitan General a suspension of hostilities. As he was not authorized by me to go to the extent of menacing by force any attempt to continue the unfortunate war, he declined to sign the terms used by the French Admiral in his letter to employ force, but in this extreme case he considerably joined in recommending an armistice which might obtain the influence of the English and French Governments in mediation.

Considering the position in which the rapid succession of events has placed me, by the sudden determination of the French Admiral to employ force to stop the progress of the war, with a feeling also of national sympathy towards the Sicilian people from various associations, I trust the course I have adopted in this peculiar case will neither embarrass Her Majesty's Government or operate against its policy; the whole proceeding being placed on the paramount principle of humanity.

I hope that specific instructions may shortly arrive with regard to the peculiar position in which we now stand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 312.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Hibernia," Naples, September 14, 1848.

I TRANSMIT herewith the copy of a letter this instant received from Captain Robb of the "Gladiator," communicating the latest proceedings at Messina, and inclosing copies of two letters from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Catania and of a representation from the Municipal Council of that place to the Sicilian Parliament. I have expressed to Captain Robb my full approbation of the manner in which he joined in the proposal for a suspension of hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 312.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Gladiator," Messina, September 12, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that since my letter to you of yesterday's date nothing of any importance has taken place here. The French ships have gone nearer the Mole, but I have deemed it proper to remain outside, as M. Piraino is still on board, and I do not wish that he be subjected to insult or ill-treatment by the Neapolitans or Sicilians, but I have given him to understand that he must leave this as soon as he has received an answer to his application from the Government of Palermo.

I beg to inclose two letters and the copy of a representation to the Parliament of Palermo which the Vice-Consul at Catania has sent me.

I have endeavoured to obtain the original protocol, which I objected to agree to with the French Captain Nonay, and to point out to you the difference that existed between us, but he had sent the original rough copy to Admiral Baudin, and I am only able to state the terms that were used, which were nearly to this effect:—"My orders are to oppose with force any further attempts at ulterior operations if persuasion shall not succeed, and I shall thus oppose further proceedings with force."

As I stated in my letter of yesterday, I declined to act with him in any other way than in using my influence in obtaining a cessation of hostilities, and

* See Inclosure 3 in No. 295.

to which he consented. I am the more particular in this matter as I have never differed from him in any other point, and in this I was glad that he came over to my wishes and obtained our end at the same time.

"Bulldog" arrived at Catania and landed about 500 refugees there last night and returned here this morning. I sent her on to Malta with the compromised persons named in the accompanying list, but about 400 wished to be sent there, which I thought would embarrass the Government.

I have sent Captain Pelham an account of all that has taken place here, and I await with some anxiety your reply to my letter of yesterday.

All the English have been landed to-day and the town is said to be tranquil.

The expedition which sailed yesterday morning has not returned.

Commander Key reported them off Catania going in the direction of Syracuse, but as orders were sent by General Filangieri to stop them I have no fear of their making any attack until further orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ROBB.

Inclosure 4 in No. 312.

Vice-Consul Jeans to Captain Robb.

(Extract.)

Catania, September 10, 1848.

I BEG to inform you that this place, since the receipt of the news that the troops of the King of Naples had entered Messina, has been in a great state of alarm.

Under these circumstances the wish for British mediation or intervention which has been prevalent here ever since the commencement of the Revolution, but which has latterly been dormant in deference to the spirit of resistance prevalent in the fortified and defended cities of Palermo and Messina, is again apparent, and I believe I am not wrong in saying the desire is now universal.

I think it my duty therefore to acquaint you with the existence of this feeling, in case you may deem it necessary to communicate the same to the British authorities at Naples, whom I do not address direct in the absence of any means of communication.

In case the Neapolitan forces proceed to this place I trust that if there be any British ship of war disposable at Messina you may feel yourself authorized to order her on here for the protection of British subjects and British property.

Inclosure 5 in No. 312.

Vice-Consul Jeans to Captain Robb.

*Catania, September 10, 1848,
half-past 12 A.M.*

Sir,

I BEG to inclose a copy of a communication made me by the President of the Municipal Council of Catania, accompanying the deliberation of that body to appeal to the Sicilian Parliament requesting the intervention of the Governments of Great Britain and France.

In consequence of the wish therein expressed that its contents be made known to the Commander-in-chief of the respective fleets, I have to request that you will communicate the same to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker for his information, and also that you will forward the accompanying despatch to Lord Napier by first opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT JEANS.

P.S.—I beg also to send you a letter I addressed to you this morning, but detained by the non-departure of the courier.

Inclosure 6 in No. 312.

The President of the Municipal Council of Catania to Vice-Consul Jeans.

Signore,

Catania, 10 Settembre, 1848.

VI reco a pregio farle tenere la annessa deliberazione emessa da questo Consiglio ora stesso per mezzo di apposita commissione dallo stesso scelta, e composta dal Vice-Presidente e Consiglieri Giacomo Gravina, Mario Rizzari, e Carlo Ardizzone.

Ho l'onore, &c.

(Firmato) Il Presidente,
ALEPIO CANTARELLA.

*Deliberazione del Consiglio Civico di Catania emessa nella Seduta del dì
10 Settembre, 1848.*

Il Consiglio,

DIETRO avere conosciuto il disastro avvenuto alla invitta città di Messina ridotta già da inumano bombardamento dalla squadra Napolitana e dai forti di quella cittadella un mucchio di macerie, spettacolo nuovo della storia;

Sulla considerazione che questa città trovasi esposta, perchè littorale, al medesimo crudele disastro che ha di già sofferto l'infelice Messina, non potendo alla numerosa flotta Napolitana opporre un valido ostacolo;

Considerando che il procedue della flotta e truppa Napolitana mostra ad evidenza in disprezzo dei dritti dell'umanità e dell'attuale civilizzazione, il deciso disegno di appianare tutte le città marittime che, prive di legni di guerra, non possono che soggiacere all'inevitabile futo, tanto più che non possono presentare le risorse di difesa che Messina, harricata e munita di forti, per varj giorni oppose;

Considerando che è risaputo che le città e comuni di questa Valle hanno espresso il medesimo desiderio per mezza di deputazioni inviate a questo Commissario del Potere Esecutivo;

Considerando che i sentimenti umanitari delle due alte Potenze, la Gran Bretagna e la Republica Francese, che tanto le distinguono, non che le simpatie da loro esternate per la libertà ed indipendenza della Sicilia, rendono ben giusto e plaudito un intervento che vieta l'ulteriore effusione di sangue ed il progresso di una guerra distruttiva e vandalica, tanto più che la Gran Bretagna ha dei vincoli verso Sicilia per il sostegno della Costituzione ed indipendenza di questo regno;

Ha deliberato ad unanimità di voti, implorarsi dal Parlamento che richieda il pronto intervento delle due alte Potenze la Gran Bretagna e la Republica Francese, per sostenere i nostri sacri dritti e far cessare l'ulteriore effusione di sangue ed una guerra exterminatrice per ambe le parti belligeranti.

E nel tempo stesso ha deliberato che la presente, per mezzo di una deputazione composta dal Vice-Presidente e Consiglieri Giacomo Gravina, Mario Rizzari, e Carlo Ardizzone, fosse comunicata officiosamente ai Signori Consoli della Gran Bretagna e della Republica Francese in questa residenti, pregandoli di comunicarla al più presto ai loro diplomatici superiori e comandanti delle flotte per la conveniente intelligenza.

Il Cancelliere Segretario,
(Firmato) ROSARIO MORABITE.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Catania, September 10, 1848.

I BEG to forward the accompanying deliberation just issued by this Council, through a deputation chosen from the same, and composed of the Vice-President and of Giacomo Gravina, Mario Rizzari, and Carlo Ardizzone, Councillors.

I have, &c. The President,
(Signed) ALEPIO CANTARELLA.

*Deliberation of the Municipal Council of Catania, held in the Session of the
10th September, 1848.*

The Council,

HAVING been informed of the disaster that has befallen the illustrious city of Messina, which by an inhuman bombardment from the Neapolitan squadron and the forts in the citadel, has been reduced to a heap of ruins, a new spectacle for history;

Considering that this city also, because lying on the coast, is exposed to the same cruel disaster which the unhappy Messina has suffered, being unable to oppose a sufficient obstacle to the numerous fleet of Naples;

Considering that the acts of the fleet and troops of the Neapolitans, in contempt of the rights of humanity and of civilization, display a decided determination to destroy all those maritime towns which being undefended by vessels of war, cannot but succumb to inevitable fate, more especially as they do not possess those means of defence which Messina, fortified and provided with fortresses, employed for many days;

Considering that it is well known that the towns and townships of this district have expressed the same desire by means of deputations sent to this Commission of the Executive Power;

Considering that the feelings of humanity which so much distinguish the two High Powers, Great Britain and the French Republic, as well as the sympathy expressed by them for the liberty and independence of Sicily, afford just and laudable motives for an intervention which may prevent the ulterior effusion of blood and the continuance of a destructive and Vandalic war, and especially as Great Britain has ties which bind it to Sicily, for the support of the constitution and independence of this kingdom;

Has unanimously resolved to implore the Parliament to request the prompt intervention of the two High Powers of Great Britain and the French Republic, to maintain our sacred rights, and to prevent the further effusion of blood, and a war of extermination to both belligerent parties.

It has at the same time resolved, that by means of a deputation composed of the Vice-President, and of the Councillors Giacomo Gravina, Mario Rizzari, and Carlo Ardizzone, this deliberation be officially communicated to the Consuls of Great Britain and France here resident, requesting them to communicate the same with all speed to their diplomatic superiors, and to the commanders of the fleet for their due information.

The Chancellor Secretary,
(Signed) ROSARIO MORABITE.

No. 313.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 26, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 12th instant, inclosing a note which you had received from Prince Cariatì in reply to the joint representation made by your Lordship and Sir William Parker, I have to say that Prince Cariatì's assertion that I told Prince Castelcicala that no impediment would be offered to the sailing of the expedition, is not correct. Prince Castelcicala and Count Ludolf repeatedly asked me what instructions on that point had been sent or were about to be sent to Sir William Parker on this subject, but I always refused to tell them, while at the same time I urged them earnestly to recommend to their Government to abstain from attempting an enterprise which even if it were unobstructed by England and France must fail of ultimate success.

It is needless to say that if Prince Cariatì means to put into my mouth the words in his note beginning with "*per ricondurre in Sicilia l'ordine,*" &c., and ending with "*nelle sostanze e nella vita,*" those words are his own and not mine.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 314.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 26, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the instructions sent by your Lordship to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo relative to an armistice.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 315.

Viscount Palmerston to the Marquis of Normanby.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 26, 1848.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 20th instant, reporting the views of General Cavaignac in regard to the affairs of Sicily, and I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have approved the steps taken by Sir William Parker in co-operation with the measures adopted by Admiral Baudin for putting a stop to the atrocities of which the Neapolitan expedition against Sicily has been the cause.

With regard to the terms upon which a final arrangement between Naples and Sicily might best be made, Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in the opinions expressed by General Cavaignac. It seems to Her Majesty's Government that the most desirable arrangement would be, that on the one hand the Crown of Sicily should remain on the head of the King of Naples, while on the other hand the Sicilians should have their own Constitution, a separate Parliament, Sicilian civil officers and a Sicilian military force, and that no Neapolitan troops should be quartered in the island, and that the local Government should be administered by a Viceroy to be appointed by the King, and who should be either a Prince of the Royal Family or a Sicilian subject. Such an arrangement would preserve the Crown for the King, and would retain for him those advantages of dignity and honour and of military and naval resources which would thence be derived, while it would secure to the Sicilians all the benefits of self-government and of free institutions; and the absence of Neapolitan troops would remove the danger to their liberties and rights which they might justly apprehend from the presence of a Neapolitan garrison.

It is possible indeed that such an arrangement may be objected to by both parties. The King may be unwilling to consent to the condition that there should be no Neapolitan troops in the island, and the Sicilians may be averse to acknowledging as their King, and as the Father of the country, the person by whose orders their soil has been stained with blood, one of their chief towns has been reduced to ashes, and thousands of their fellow-subjects have been brought to ruin and beggary. These feelings may no doubt be natural on both sides, but it must be the endeavour of the British and French Governments to overcome them, and to endeavour to persuade both parties, that it is for their mutual advantage not to sever entirely the connection between them, and that such connection can be maintained only by great mutual sacrifices.

If notwithstanding all the efforts of the two Governments such an arrangement should prove to be impossible, Her Majesty's Government concur with General Cavaignac in thinking, that the next best plan would be that the Crown of Sicily should be devolved to the King's eldest or second son. This would still maintain a connection between Sicily and Naples, and might at some future day, when present animosities may have subsided, lead to the renewal of a closer union. To this plan again both parties would at first object. The King has repeatedly declared that he never will consent to a son of his becoming in his lifetime King of Sicily; but the only meaning of that, evidently is, that he will not give his consent to transfer to one of his sons a crown which he desires and hopes himself to continue to wear; and if he was convinced that the Sicilian Crown was irretrievably lost for himself, he might then very possibly be glad to preserve

it for his family, by consenting to its being placed upon the head of one of his sons.

The Sicilians are at present so exasperated against the King that the hatred which they bear to him, extends to all his family; and they would object to one of his sons, because that Prince was a son of the present King; but nevertheless these feelings may calm down by reflection and may yield to persuasion, and if the first arrangement should prove impracticable, the second may possibly be accomplished.

It seems to Her Majesty's Government to be sufficient for the present moment to contemplate these two schemes, and to leave any further alternative to be taken into consideration if the necessity for doing so should arise.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 316.

Mr. Addington to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1848.

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd instant inclosing two despatches from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, reporting on the state of affairs between Naples and Sicily, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the course taken in regard to these matters by Sir William Parker, and that he should be directed to maintain the armistice until further instructed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. U. ADDINGTON.

No. 317.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 27.)

My Lord,

Naples, September 17, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of two despatches from Mr. Goodwin, descriptive of the preparations for resistance at Palermo, and acquainting me that the Sicilian Government had readily agreed to the proposed suspension of hostilities.

The accompanying letter from Marquis Torreaarsa does not contain any of the usual diatribes against the Bourbon dynasty.

His Excellency explains the capture of Milazzo which was occupied by the Neapolitan forces with great facility.

The insignificant Island of Lipari has also returned to its former allegiance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 317.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, September 11, 1848.

THE alarm excited by the surrender of Messina and the subsequent fall of Milazzo has somewhat abated.

Active preparations are making to resist the enemy should Palermo be the next object of attack. The reports to this Government from the interior are satisfactory. A large quantity of church plate is come into the treasury. Public spirit appears to be still resolute and public confidence to be enjoyed by the Ministry.

The bank has stopped payment of its notes for the present.

Parliament has authorized Ministers to put the horses and mules of individuals under requisition for the mounting of the cavalry. It has likewise ordered 20,000 pikes to be forged and distributed among the combatants; 6000 armed men are said to have come into Palermo during the last twenty-four hours from the neighbouring towns.

13th September.—The preparations go on with redoubled activity since yesterday, when the "Hellepont" brought arms and ammunition from Toulon. A three-gun battery is erecting in front of my house, and substantial barricades formed of paving stones and earth are building at Porta Reale near the Villa Giulia and at Porta Macqueda. No carriages are allowed to pass unexamined and no baggage to be shipped off without an order from Government.

Government is authorized to issue paper-money to the amount of 1,200,000 ounces on the security of the nation domains.

Internal order is enjoyed in the city to a wonderful extent. Not a robbery or act of violence has been heard of since the excitement began, and no dissident voice has disturbed the harmony of the Chambers.

The hopes of Sicily, says Mr. Onates of Girgenti, are upon the middle and lower classes, who I believe will fight the Neapolitans to a man.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 317.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, September 13, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of 11th September, inclosing to me copies of your Lordship's note to Prince Cariati and Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker's despatch to your Lordship on the capture of Messina, and stating that a concerted remonstrance has been addressed to the Neapolitan Government by the Legations of Great Britain and France.

In conformity to your Lordship's directions I called upon the Marchese Torreaarsa and read to him in Italian your Lordship's despatch and its inclosures, and I urged upon him the necessity of contributing by every means to the suspension of hostilities; while at the same time the original despatch was placed in the hands of one of his colleagues, who is master of the English language.

The result was that the Marchese and all his colleagues, and D. Ruggiero Settimo in person declared to me solemnly, "that they engaged to suspend hostilities forthwith and altogether: *Salvo pregiudizio alla causa nazionale.*"

The reading of your Lordship's despatch commanded deep and earnest attention, and the tenour of the contents called forth the warmest expressions of gratitude and regard for your Lordship and Admiral Sir William Parker from the President and every member of the Council of Ministers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GOODWIN

Inclosure 3 in No. 317.

The Marquis of Torrearsa to Lord Napier.

Eccellenza,

Palermo, 13 Settembre, 1848.

QUESTA mane il Console Inglese, Signor Goodwin, ci ha dato lettura del dispaccia dell' Eccellenza vostra allo stesso diretto, e di quello scritte dal Vice-Ammiraglio Sir William Parker, e della nota dell' Eccellenza vostra diretta al Governo di Napoli.

Mi gode l'animo poterle dire che l'avvenimento di Messina è stato saggiamente calcolato come la prova della forte resistenza che ad ogni passo debbono attendere in Sicilia le armi Napolitane. Questo Governo non ha mancato annunziarlo altamente fin da Genaro passato, ed ora non può tacere

vedendone le parole confermate dal fatto. Tra Napolitani e Siciliani si combatte guerra a morte, guerra di distruzione. L'unico punto che le armi Regie hanno potuto occupare senza spargimento di sangue si è Milazzo, è ciò perchè caduta Messina si crede dal Comandante di quel forte non poterlo tenere, e più conveniente alla condotta della guerra ritirarsi colle sue forze nella prossime montagne. Quindi quest' unico vantaggio, si vuol sì così chiamare, non debbesi attribuire nè al valore dell'esercito invasore nè a debolezza da parte nostra. Lo spirito pubblico è qui sempre lo stesso, ognuno è pronto a combattere, e nelle principali città e ne' punti designati dal Governo si ammassa di continuo numero poderosissimo di armati decisi a combattere per la causa della Sicilia, e questi oltre i volontarj ed oltre di tutta la Gnardia Nazionale pronta a marciare da ogni punto e dove il bisogno il richieda. Il sangue versato in Messina, le atrocità, e le barbarie quivi commesse, e gli avanzi di quella sventurata popolazione dispersi per le città dell' isola, hanno sublimato le passioni del popolo, e veramente per come io altra volta le dissi, hanno finito di suggellare la nostra separazione assoluta dal Reame di Napoli, se pure occorreva quest' altro fatto per fare sentire ai Siciliani il loro interesse.

In quanto all' armistizio che l'Eccellenza vostra e l'Ammiraglio Sir William Parker di unita al Rappresentante della Repubblica Francese, han creduto proporci senza portar pregiudizio alcuno ai diritti ed alla causa nostra, questo Governo ne ha prontamente accettata la proposizione per non contribuire dalla parte sua ad una inutile effusione di sangue, e persuaso che le Grandi Potenze vogliano una volta apprezzare come la Sicilia sia ben degna di reggersi a suo modo e sotto quel Rè liberamente scelto e dalla diplomazia tenuto conveniente alla Sicilia.

Conoscendo per esperienza come non sempre si giunga a far sentir ragione al Governo di Napoli, noi non ismettiamo l'idea di nostri armamenti, e continuiamo a giovarci del pubblico entusiasmo per accrescere più e più sempre i nostri modi di difesa, e non manchiamo di usare tutta l'energia per lo sviluppo delle nostre istituzioni interne.

Debbo in ultimo ripeterle come noi le siamo grandemente tenuti pei personali sentimenti di effetto che vostre Eccellenza mentre per la Sicilia, e pei tanti modi di generoso interesse che ha voluto in più occasioni mostrarle.

Accetti intanto, &c.

(Firmato) **MARCHESE DI TORREARSA,**
Ministro degli Affari Esteri, &c.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Palermo, September 13, 1848.

THE British Consul, Mr. Goodwin, has this morning read to us the despatch addressed to him by your Lordship and that addressed to your Lordship by Sir William Parker as well as your Lordship's note to the Neapolitan Government.

I am glad to be able to inform you that the events at Messina have wisely been considered as the best proof of the powerful resistance which the Neapolitan troops must expect in Sicily at every step. This Government has not omitted to proclaim the fact since the month of January last, and now that the words have been carried into execution we must repeat it. Between Neapolitans and Sicilians a desperate war is waged, a war of extermination. The only point which the King's troops have been able to occupy without bloodshed was Milazzo, and this happened because after the fall of Messina the commander of that fort thought that he could not hold it and that it would be more in accordance with the operations of the war to retire with his forces into the mountains. This advantage, if we may call it by that name, is not to be attributed to the bravery of the invading army or to weakness on our side. Public spirit remains the same; everybody is ready to fight either in towns or in the places appointed by the Government. Numerous bodies of armed men are daily assembling with the determination of fighting for the Sicilian cause, and this independently of the volunteers and of the whole of the National Guard ready to march to any place where their presence may be required. The blood shed in Messina, the atrocities and barbarities that have been committed, and the remains of that unhappy population dispersed in the different towns of the

island, have excited the passions of the people to the highest pitch, and indeed as I have already told your Lordship, have sealed for ever our complete separation from the Realm of Naples, even if the last events had been wanting to make the Sicilians understand their real interests.

With respect to the armistice which your Lordship and Admiral Sir William Parker together with the Representative of the French Republic, have thought right to propose to us without injuring in the least either our rights or our cause, this Government have immediately accepted the proposal, that they may not contribute on their side to the useless effusion of blood, and being convinced that the Great Powers will see at last that Sicily deserves to govern herself under a King spontaneously elected and approved of by Foreign Powers.

Knowing by experience how difficult it is to bring the Neapolitan Government to reason we shall not abandon our warlike preparations, and we shall continue to take advantage of the public enthusiasm to add still more to our means of defence, and we shall not fail to display all our energy for the development of our internal institutions.

I must lastly repeat to your Lordship how much we feel obliged for the friendly feelings which your Lordship entertains towards Sicily, and for the proofs of generous interest which your Lordship has shown to us on several occasions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARQUIS OF TORREARSA.

No. 318.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 27.)

My Lord,

Naples, September 17, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatches to your Lordship of the 12th instant, covering a preliminary reply of the Neapolitan Government to the proposals for a suspension of hostilities, and of the 13th instant, inclosing a letter from General Filangieri to the officers in command of the English and French ships of war at Messina acceding to their overtures for that object, I have now the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of two notes from his Excellency the Prince of Cariati under date of the 13th and 14th instant. ¶

The former again invokes for the Neapolitan Government the rights of an independent State and that perfect freedom of action towards its revolted subjects which have been conceded to it by the declarations of the Cabinets of Great Britain and France.

The latter intimates that the temporary cessation of operations agreed to by General Filangieri was merely in expectation of instructions from his Government, and claims for the Neapolitan Commander the liberty to continue his measures for the reduction of the island, which would be carried out with the least possible effusion of blood.

I contented myself with simply acknowledging the receipt of these communications and imparting them to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, who has returned the accompanying reply, which I have transmitted without further observations to the Neapolitan Government.

The answer of M. de Rayneval in concert with Admiral Baudin is to the same purport.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 318.

Prince Cariati to Lord Napier.

Napoli, 13 Settembre, 1848.

DACCHE il Principe di Satriano, Comandante-in-capo della spedizione in Sicilia, ebbe occupata Messina, ogni sua cura rivolse a provvedere a quanto deve assicurare la pace e la prosperità di quella città, e testimonianza nè han fatta gli stessi Comandanti delle navi di Francia e d'Inghilterra che trovansi nel Faro.

Simile moderata condotta, e la soddisfazione che ne dimostrano gli abitanti di Messina, dava non solo speranza, ma sibbene certezza che la maggior parte della isola stanca dal giogo impostole da turbolenta fazione, sarebbe spontaneamente e senza ulteriore spargimento di sangue, rientrata sotto il paterno dominio del legittimo Sovrano.

Ma contro ogni aspettativa e non ostante le esplicite assicurazioni del Ministro Inglese al Regio Inviato a Londra, di cui non debbesi certamente rivo-care in dubbio la sincerità, i Comandanti delle forze navali d'Inghilterra e di Francia sonosi presentati il giorno 11 del corrente al Principe di Satriano ed hanno ad esso dichiarato, in esecuzione di ordine ricevuto dai rispettivi Ammi-ragli, che riguardando come fatto compiuto l'occupazione di Messina e di Milazzo, lo impegnavano però a sospendere le ostilità ed ogni altra operazione militare sulle coste di Sicilia, sino a che i Governi di Francia e d'Inghilterra non saranno riusciti ad appianare le difficoltà che si oppongono tuttavia ad una generale pacificazione.

Il Sottoscritto, &c., n' già partecipato a Lord Napier, &c., con nota in data degli 11 andante, i potenti motivi pe' quali egli è convinto che l'Ammiraglio non è autorizzato a frapporre ostacolo di sorta alcuna alle operazioni delle truppe di Sua Maestà in Sicilia, e che l'Ammiraglio Baudin in egual modo operando, assume la responsabilità di atti non prescrittigli dal suo Governo.

Tale condotta, indipendentemente dall' essere in manifesta opposizione de' più sacri dritti di un Sovrano libero ed indipendente, i quali non dovrebbero giammai venir posti in dimenticanza o conculcati specialmente tra Potenze amiche, in questo incontro altro risultamento non avrebbe se non quello di render impossibile, o per lo meno difficilissimo, lo accordo che il Governo di Sua Maestà ha in mira di stabilire con la Sicilia, dappoichè conosciuto dai facionorosi dell' isola l'intervento dell' Inghilterra e della Francia, divranno vieppiù audaci, e le offerte di sommissione che sarebbero al certo successiva-mente giunte, come quella già avvenuta di Milazzo, Lipari, e probabilmente a quest' ora di altri punti della Sicilia, cesseranno del tutto; ed inoltre il ritardo arrecato alle operazioni del Principe di Satriano saran cagione di maggior effusione di sangue, permettendo agli avversari il tempo di riconcentrare le loro forze.

Il Sottoscritto conosce troppo il senno e l'equità del Signor Incaricato di Affari, non che dei Signori Ammiragli, per non augurarsi che prendendo in matura considerazione le esposte ragioni, si affretteranno a comunicare ai loro subordinati gli ordini opportuni perchè desistano dal proponimento, lascino al Principe di Satriano piena e libera facoltà di agire conformemente alle istruzioni del Governo, dirette esclusivamente al ripristinamento dell' ordine e della pace in Sicilia, evitando per quanto sarà possibile l'effusione del sangue.

In attenzione, &c.

(Firmato) PE. DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, September 13, 1848.

FROM the moment that the Prince of Satriano, Commander-in-chief of the expedition against Sicily, had taken possession of Messina, he devoted every care to the promulgation of those measures which might tend to insure the peace and prosperity of that town to which even the Commanders of the English and French ships stationed in the Faro have borne witness. Such moderate conduct and the satisfaction evinced thereat by the inhabitants of Messina inspired not only a hope but even a certainty that the greater part of the island, wearied by the yoke imposed upon them by a turbulent faction, would have of its own accord returned under the paternal dominion of its legitimate Sovereign without further effusion of blood.

But contrary to all expectation, and notwithstanding the explicit assurance of the English Minister to the King's Envoy in London, whose sincerity certainly cannot be called in question, the Commanders of the naval forces of England and France appeared on the 11th instant before the Prince of Satriano, and declared in consequence of orders received from their respective Admirals, that although they regarded the occupation of Messina and Milazzo as a *fait accompli*, they required of him to suspend hostilities and every other military operation upon

the coast of Sicily until the Governments of France and England should have succeeded in smoothing the difficulties which at present exist in the way of a general pacification.

The Undersigned, &c., has already communicated to Lord Napier, &c., in his note of the 11th instant, the strong reasons whereby he is convinced that the Admiral is not authorized to oppose any kind of obstacle to the operations of the troops of His Majesty in Sicily, and that Admiral Baudin, by adopting the same line of conduct, takes upon himself the responsibility of acts not authorized by his Government. Such a proceeding, independently of its being manifestly opposed to the most sacred prerogatives of a free and independent Sovereign, which ought never to be forgotten or derogated from, especially between friendly Powers, could under the present circumstances produce no other result than to render impossible or at least most difficult the concord which the Government of His Majesty is desirous of establishing with Sicily; because if the intervention of England and France were to become known to the evil-disposed persons of the island they would become still more audacious, and the offers of submission which would certainly have arrived one after another, as has already been the case with Milazzo and Lipari and probably by this time with other parts of Sicily, would entirely cease: and besides the delay experienced in the operations of Prince Satriano would be the cause of greater effusion of blood, by giving time to the opposite party to concentrate their forces.

The Undersigned is too well aware of the good sense and justice of the Chargé d'Affaires and of the Admirals, not to hope that after maturely considering the above-mentioned arguments they will hasten to send the necessary orders to their subordinates to desist from their present purpose and to leave the Prince Satriano the full liberty of acting in accordance with the instructions of his Government, which are exclusively directed to the re-establishment of order and peace in Sicily, always avoiding as much as may be possible the effusion of blood.

Hoping for a prompt answer, the Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PE. DI CARIATI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 318.

Prince Cariatì to Lord Napier.

Napoli, 14 Settembre, 1848.

IN riscontro della nota di Lord Napier, &c., in data di jeri, si affretta il Sottoscritto, &c., di far osservare che il Principe di Satriano non ha contratto impegno di sorta alcuna con la sua lettera al Capitano Robb, siccome potrà il Signor Incaricato di Affari accertarsene dalla copia della lettera qui unita, ma si è limitato ad assicurare che avrebbe partecipato al Real Governo le richieste de' Signori Comandanti Inglesi e Francesi, ed avrebbe atteso le corrispondenti istruzioni.

Il Real Governo non ha potuto che approvare per ora la condotta del Principe di Satriano. Esso continuerà le incominciate pratiche, onde condurre a fine la desiderata commissione della Sicilia, essendo stato sempre desiderio del Governo di risparmiare il più possibile l'effusione del sangue, e si augura di riescire nello intento se non in tutto almeno in buona parte, perchè a ragion di credere che se non verranno esse frastornate dalle speranze che potrebbero far concepire la cattiva interpretazione del passo dato da' Comandanti delle stazioni Francesi ed Inglesi nella rada di Messina, spontanee sommissioni si succederanno.

Il Real Governo sarà sempre grato, non solo all' Ammiraglio Parker ed alla Legazione Inglese, ma a chiunque potrà pe' suoi buoni uffizi ed influenze in Sicilia contribuire alla sommissione delle altre città dell' isola.

Profitta egli, &c.

(Firmato)

PE. DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, September 14, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., in reply to the note of Lord Napier, &c., hastens to point out to him that Prince Satriano by his letter to Captain Robb has not bound himself to any line of conduct, as the Chargé d'Affaires will see by the

copy of the letter herewith inclosed; but he has only confined himself to an assurance that he would have communicated to the Royal Government the request of the English and French commanders, and that he would have waited for instructions on the subject.

The Royal Government could not but approve for the present the conduct of Prince Satriano. He will continue to carry out his designs in order to accomplish the wished-for subjection of Sicily, it always having been the Government's desire to avoid as much as possible the effusion of blood; and he hopes to succeed in his object, if not in the whole at least in great part, as he has reason to believe that spontaneous submissions would take place successively should not his designs be interfered with by the hopes which may be excited by the misinterpretation of the step taken by the French and English commanders at Messina.

The Royal Government will always be grateful not only to Admiral Parker and the British Legation, but to whoever can with his good offices and influence in Sicily contribute to the submission of the other cities of the island.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PE. DI CARIATI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 318.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"*Hibernia*," Naples, September 16, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of yesterday transmitting the copies of two notes from his Excellency the Prince of Cariati on the subject of the continuance of hostile operations in Sicily.

By the latest intelligence received at Naples no doubt remains that the mediation of France and England has been accepted by Austria for the adjustment of the differences between that Power and the Italian States.

It may therefore be confidently expected that the mediating Powers acting in concert will be disposed to endeavour to put a stop by negotiation to the unfortunate contentions between the Sicilians and the Neapolitan forces.

It is unfortunately also certain by the accounts received from every quarter, that the late calamitous bombardment of Messina has heightened the exasperation of the Sicilians to the determination of resisting every inch of ground, and to make their last stand in the mountains of their country if driven from its coasts. From such a consummation nothing can be contemplated but a long succession of sanguinary conflicts, ruin, and desolation.

A few days will probably bring the expected instructions to the French and English squadrons from their respective Governments in this peculiar question. Humanity therefore impels me through the medium of your Lordship to urge more strongly than ever on the Neapolitan Government the continuance of the truce which was proposed jointly by the French and English captains at Messina, and conditionally agreed to by the Prince of Satriano on the 11th instant.

The Sicilians must of course conform to its terms.

It is a measure instigated by a combination of pressing circumstances; humanity demands it; and I repeat my hopes that it will not become necessary for us to enforce it.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. PARKER.

No. 319.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, October 2, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker dated Naples the 21st of September last, and of one which he has received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commerce of the Sicilian Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 319.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, September 21, 1848.

I DEEM it right to inclose for the information of the Lords of the Admiralty the copy of a letter which I have received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commerce of the Sicilian Government.

I presume this letter is grounded on the copy of one addressed by me to Lord Napier on the 10th instant,* which it appears was transmitted by his Lordship to the British Consul at Palermo, because the only way in which I have communicated with the Sicilian Government is through the medium of Captains Corry and Henderson, who verbally conferred with them in accordance with my orders to the former officer of the 11th instant, of which I transmitted a copy in my despatch of the 18th instant.

I have, &c.

W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 319.

The Marquis Torreaarsa to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

YOUR Excellency's note to the Representative of your Government, Lord Napier, deserves that all Sicilians express their obligations to you for the frank and loyal manner in which you appreciate the barbarous conduct of the Neapolitan troops at Messina, and it suffices for the glory of that city to have your Excellency's declaration of the unexampled and extraordinary defence made there by our people.

As to the armistice proposed to us, we who fight, not to shed uselessly the blood of our own people, have promptly accepted the offer, provided such suspension of arms is in no way prejudicial to our right and to our cause.

Your Excellency, who in the defence made at Messina has full proof of the resolutions of the Sicilians, and that they will combat to the last without yielding to the Neapolitan arms, will aid from the affection which you have for the country, speedily to arrange matters, so as to satisfy fully the wishes of us Sicilians, and thus arrest the course of the useless barbarities and the atrocities of our aggressors.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MARQUIS OF TORREARSA.

No. 320.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 3.)

My Lord,

Naples, September 21, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship of the 17th instant, inclosing copy of a letter from Sir William Parker relative to the suspension of hostilities in Sicily, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note which I have received from Prince Cariati, which may be regarded as a protest against the intervention of the squadrons of Great Britain and France in this affair.

I have conveyed Prince Cariati's communication to the Vice-Admiral, but I have not returned any reply to his Excellency except the usual acknowledgment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

* See Inclosure 6 in No. 297.

Inclosure in No. 320.

*Prince Cariati to Lord Napier.**Napoli, 19 Settembre, 1848.*

IL Sottoscritto, &c., ha ricevuto unitamente alla nota di Lord Napier, &c., del 17 corrente, copia della lettera del Vice-Ammiraglio Parker de' 16, relativa alla sospensione delle ostilità in Sicilia.

Il Sottoscritto non ravvisa nè può riconoscere relazioni di sorta alcuna, tra l'accettazione per parte dell' Austria della mediazione offerta dall' Inghilterra e dalla Francia per l'aggiustamento della vertenza tra quella Potenza e gli Stati Italiani, e la sottomissione della Sicilia al legittimo Sovrano; dappoichè nel primo caso trattasi di ristabilire la pace tra Potenze belligeranti indipendenti, e nel secondo liberare una parte de' Reali dominj dal giogo impostole da una mano di faziosi, ridonarle la pace e l'ordine, e rimirla di nuovo alla Monarchia delle Due Sicilie di cui è parte integrante.

D'altronde da' rapporti stessi pervenuti al Signor Ammiraglio chiaramente risulta, che a capi de' rivoltosi, a cui sono ben note le disposizioni della gran maggioranza della popolazione dell' isola, altro scampo non rimarrebbe, quando loro venisse meno l'appoggio morale e materiale di talune Potenze, se non quello di fuggir tra i monti, d'onde non tarderebbero sicuramente di essere snidati dagli stessi loro concittadini stanchi ed abborenti degli eccessi di ogni maniera a cui sono da ben otto mesi soggetti.

In quanto poi alla minaccia di abuso della forza col fine di costringere un Governo libero ed indipendente a cui non si può rimproverare colpa veruna verso il diritto delle genti a sottoporsi a voleri de' Comandanti delle forze navali di due Potenze amiche, non rimane al Sottoscritto che anticipatamente e formalmente protestare al cospetto del mondo incivilito contro qualunque atto di simil natura, e le Potenze di second' ordine non mancheranno certamente di considerare con sorpresa e dolore, in ciò che avviene nel Regno delle Due Sicilie, il danno da cui sono minacciate nel momento appunto in cui vien per ogni dove altamente proclamato il rispetto pel principio della libertà e della indipendenza delle nazioni.

Il Sottoscritto prega Lord Napier di dare comunicazione della presente al Vice-Ammiraglio Parker, e profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PRINCIPE DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, September 19, 1848.

THE Undersigned, &c., has received the note of the 17th instant addressed to him by Lord Napier, &c., inclosing copy of a letter of the 16th instant from Vice-Admiral Parker relative to the suspension of hostilities in Sicily.

The Undersigned does not see and cannot acknowledge any sort of connection between the acceptance on the part of Austria of the mediation offered by England and France for the settlement of the question at issue between that Power and the Italian States, and the subjection of Sicily to its legitimate Sovereign; because the first case refers to the re-establishment of peace between independent belligerent Powers, whereas the second involves a liberation of a part of the Royal dominions from a yoke imposed upon it by a band of revolvers, its restoration to peace and order and its re-union to the Monarchy of the Two Sicilies of which it forms an integral part.

On the other hand, from the very reports which have reached the Admiral himself it clearly results, that the heads of the revolted faction to whom the disposition of the great majority of the population of the island is well known, would have no other chance of escape if deprived of the moral and material protection of certain foreign Powers, except that of wandering amongst the mountains, from which they would certainly not fail to be driven by their fellow-citizens themselves, who are wearied by and abhorrent of the excesses of all kinds to which they have been subjected for the last eight months.

With regard to the threat of the abuse of force for the purpose of constrain-

ing a free and independent Government, who cannot be accused of any infraction of the law of nations, to submit to the will of the commanders of the naval forces of two friendly Powers, the Undersigned can only protest in anticipation and formally in the face of the civilized world against any act of such a nature; and the Powers of the second class will not fail to observe with surprise and pain by what is now taking place in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, the peril with which they are threatened at the very moment when the respect for the principle of the freedom and independence of nations is being loudly proclaimed from every quarter.

The Undersigned begs Lord Napier to communicate this note to Vice-Admiral Parker and avails himself, &c.

(Signed) PRINCE CARIATI.

No. 321.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 3.)

(Extract.)

Naples, September 23, 1848.

IN conformity with your Lordship's instructions of the 12th instant, I have conveyed to Prince Cariati a verbal expression of your Lordship's sentiments regarding the condition of the Sicilian prisoners.

His Excellency assured me that the Sicilians are treated with all the consideration which the imperfect state of the Neapolitan prison discipline permits of. He asserted that bedding had been provided for them, and that four-pence per day were allowed for the sustenance of each.

I am afraid however that Prince Cariati has not any distinct impression of the actual state of those unfortunate persons, and I have no doubt that those at least who have not the means of purchasing the favour of their gaolers and some conveniences of life, are abandoned to the deprivations and neglect of which prisoners in this country are generally the victims.

No. 322.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 3.)

My Lord,

Naples, September 23, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, by which your Lordship will be acquainted that the Sicilian Government have thought themselves entitled to complain of some act of hostility committed at Barcellona, a place near Milazzo, by the Neapolitan forces.

I am not in possession of any particulars regarding the alleged occurrence, but Sir William Parker is under the impression that the Neapolitan Commander-in-chief has not been to blame. The suspension of arms is in the Vice-Admiral's opinion observed very regularly on either side, and a proper demarcation has been effected between the opposite forces.

Last night two steam-vessels were dispatched to Reggio with ammunition, medicines, and a small reinforcement of troops. It is said that a mountain battery was forwarded at the same time. These indications combined with the march of regiments by land towards Calabria, have led the Neapolitans to believe that the Government intend to persevere in the war, but I cannot apprehend that they would be guilty of such an act of temerity.

It would appear by posterior accounts brought by the French naval officers, that in estimating the killed and wounded on the Neapolitan side during the attack on Messina at 1500, Captain Robb fell below the truth, and Sir William Parker is inclined to believe that the number was not much under 3000.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 322.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, September 19, 1848.

AS the "Hellaspon" French steamer proceeded to Marseilles direct on the 16th instant, I thought it advisable to send a despatch of which a copy* is inclosed to Viscount Palmerston, acquainting his Lordship with this Government's having engaged on the 13th instant to suspend hostilities, and with its having renewed such engagement on the 14th with the "salvo" before reported to your Lordship.

I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Marchese Torreausa having addressed a letter to the British and French naval commanders, complaining of a breach of the armistice at a place called Barecellona, about thirty miles west of Messina, on the part of the Neapolitans, and having subsequently requested those commanders to send officers on board the "Peloro" to protect her on her way to Messina (whither the Government proposed sending a Commissioner to prevent a recurrence of the matter of complaint), the British and French commanders have acceded to the request and have made arrangements for dispatching their respective officers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 323.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 3.)

(Extract.)

Naples, September 24, 1848.

IN conformity with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 11th instant I waited last night upon Prince Cariati and made his Excellency acquainted with the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the affairs of Sicily.

I pointed out to him how deeply your Lordship deprecated every attempt to reduce the inhabitants of that island to subjection by force, and the satisfaction with which your Lordship would witness the exercise of the mediation of Great Britain to effect a permanent settlement of its Government, whether by the concession to Sicily of the full scope of the Constitution of 1812 under the Crown of King Ferdinand, or if that should prove impossible, by the elevation to the Throne of one of His Majesty's sons, with such a Regency as would give no cause of umbrage to the nation.

The position in which we are now placed by the late measures of Sir William Parker and Admiral Baudin for the enforcement of an armistice, did not enable me to make any direct proposals towards a negotiation at this moment; and I read your Lordship's instruction to Prince Cariati rather for the purpose of impressing on him the opinions entertained by your Lordship, which seem to be but imperfectly reported by Prince Casteleicala, and of preparing him for the contingency of a more peremptory recommendation of a course of policy which has been so frequently suggested by your Lordship's friendly counsel. Prince Cariati protested against the interference of the Governments of England and France, while he repeatedly stated that for his part he desired nothing more than the pacification of Sicily under any form of Constitution which should ensure its happiness; but his Excellency was not enabled to state that any offer has been made or terms or conditions promulgated, either at Palermo or Messina, whether in the shape of proclamation or by official overtures, before the commencement of hostilities with the most barbarous severity; and I submitted to his Excellency that however humane were the intentions of the Neapolitan Government and generous their secret scheme for the government of Sicily, such a course must naturally leave in foreign States the impression that the object had been the chastisement of the Sicilians and their reduction to absolute submission, with

* See No. 307.

the design of afterwards arbitrarily ordering their affairs without any reference whatever to their previous rights and wishes.

I also pointed out to the Prince that Admiral Bandin had been approved by his Government, and that though your Lordship's sentiments in regard to the steps taken by Sir William Parker and Her Majesty's Legation were not yet known, there could be little doubt in my apprehension of their tenor; that consequently the last shot had been fired in Sicily and that the Neapolitan Government instead of cherishing hopes of conquest and organizing expensive reinforcements for an impracticable campaign, had better enter at once frankly in the path of conciliation, and obtain through the mediating Powers the most favourable terms of compromise which present circumstances can afford.

Your Lordship's instruction contemplates as the basis of any mediation in which Her Majesty's Government could join, the alternative of the full scope of the Constitution of 1812 under King Ferdinand, or the appointment of an independent Sovereign in Sicily from the Neapolitan dynasty.

The first could be temporarily forced upon the Sicilians by the broadsides of the English and French ships of war.

The second could be made acceptable to them by the combined and energetic recommendations of the Cabinets of Great Britain and the Republic.

The spirit and intention of the Constitution of 1812 was the erection of Sicily into an independent monarchy in the Bourbon dynasty, and that independence is prospectively recognized in the Royal assent to the 8th Article of the charter touching the succession to the Crown, in which the words "*Placet per l'indipendenza*" stand as the indelible testimony of the rights of the Sicilian people.

But let it be assumed that the Sicilians, obeying the advice or yielding to the menaces of foreign Powers, should under the pressure of present difficulties consent to accept the full measure of administrative independence conceded by the Charter of 1812, but under the reigning Sovereign and united with the Crown of Naples, that very consent would arm them with ample powers for his subsequent expulsion and overthrow.

The appointment of one of the reigning dynasty as independent Sovereign of Sicily, under the persuasion of the mediating Powers, would however, if I may venture to hazard an opinion, offer better chances of a durable pacification.

The national prejudice against the Bourbon Family is at present very powerful; but as the application of such a sentiment to a minor is entirely unjust and unreasonable it would naturally be evanescent, and even a child of Ferdinand, if educated in Sicily and brought up for the Throne under a national regency, might surely in calmer times attract the hopes and the attachment of the people.

Should the King's second son be selected for this object, his choice might be rendered less unpalatable to the Austrian Cabinet by the reflection that he is the son of an Imperial Princess, while the eldest is by his mother of the line of Carignan.

No. 324.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, October 3, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston an extract of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated Naples the 24th of last month, with the inclosures therein referred to, containing the last communication from Captain Robb of the "*Gladiator*," relative to an arrangement which has been made by Rear-Admiral Trichouart and himself and agreed to by the belligerents in Naples and Sicily, for a line of demarcation to be observed by them during the temporary armistice which was made on the 11th of last month.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 324.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

September 24, 1848.

I INCLOSE for their Lordships' information a copy of the "last" communication I have received from Captain Robb of the "Gladiator," relative to an arrangement which has been made by Rear-Admiral Tréhouart and himself and agreed to by the belligerents, for a line of demarcation to be observed by them during the temporary armistice which was made on the 11th instant.

I have directed Captain Robb to send the "Meteor" here, in order that the stores which she has on board for the squadron may be transferred to the "Bulldog," already in quarantine, and that the "Meteor" may proceed without further delay to England.

Inclosure 2 in No. 324.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Gladiator," Messina, September 21, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that everything remains quiet here since the departure of the "Bulldog" on the 17th instant. On the 18th the French steam-frigate "Pomone" arrived from Catania and Syracuse having found everything quiet there as the "Bulldog" had done two days before, and inculcated the necessity of regarding a strict neutrality in both places among the Sicilians.

On the 19th several Neapolitan steamers arrived and sailed, and the merchant-vessels entered the Mole.

The French Admiral has been visiting and receiving visits to and from the General Commanding-in-chief and Commodore of the Neapolitan squadron, &c.

Yesterday the "Hercule" with the Rear-Admiral's flag entered the port.

Having heard that there was a danger of collision between the Neapolitan advanced posts of Scaletta and the Sicilians at Tavernino, I sent Lieutenant Bowden in the "Descartes" French steam-frigate with orders as per copy inclosed, and he returned here the same night. The Sicilian steamer "Peloro" arrived from Palermo with a flag of truce under the protection of an English and French officer, with two delegates from the Parliament of Palermo complaining as per letters inclosed.

Lieutenant Blomfield of the "Odin" brought the accompanying despatches from Captain Corry, the senior officer at Palermo, and the Consul.

I immediately waited on the French Admiral, and with him and Captain Nonay explained to them that their complaint had originated in error, as on the 11th instant the Articles of the Convention agreed on by General Filangieri and us were to the effect that the advanced posts of Messina and Milazzo, towns in the possession of the Neapolitans, had been placed at Barcelona and Scaletta, and understood between Captain Nonay, General Filangieri and myself, to be the extreme limit of the advanced posts of the Neapolitan forces in Sicily. We satisfied them from written documents taken on the 11th instant, that what we stated was on record, and they were perfectly satisfied. They had instructions to request that the line of demarcation should be drawn between the belligerents, and in consequence this day Admiral Tréhouart, Captain Nonay and myself waited on General Filangieri for the purpose of arranging this matter, but the General could not entertain any proposition of this nature without the instructions of his Government, but gave us a very positive assurance that the Neapolitan troops should not advance further unless he received the orders of the King to do so. We then communicated with the two Sicilian delegates and requested from them a similar assurance.

As it was most important that some line very defined should be placed between the belligerents, and a large space of neutral ground to prevent any hostile collision, Admiral Tréhouart and I agreed (with the map of Sicily before us) that the occupation taken by the Neapolitans should remain as

on the 11th in *statu quo*; for although Barcelona was not taken possession of until the 15th, it was *de facto* in the power of the Neapolitan General to take it as the advanced post by the protocol of the 11th, although it was not named.

All this having been satisfactorily explained to the Sicilian delegates, they have fully agreed with us that everything has been carried on with the utmost impartiality; and in order to avoid any further collision between the belligerents during the armistice, we have proposed to the consideration of the French and English Admirals that the limits of the line of demarcation on the part of the Neapolitan forces, shall be defined by a line drawn on the map as follows.

From the juncture of the branch of the road to Barcelona with that of Patti, the advanced Neapolitan posts at Barcelona, Centinea, Pozzo de Gotto, in a line to the right over the mountains to Rossimano, Artilia, and Scaletta. The neutral ground shall be contained within the line thus drawn, and shall not be occupied by the soldiers of either party; and that it may be sufficiently extensive to prevent the possibility of any hostile act, we propose that the line of the Sicilians shall be as follows.

In a line drawn on the map from Patti, having the advanced guard on the great road where it crosses that leading to Scala, and in a south-east direction to Casa-Nuova, Trifu, Noara, Graniti, Mola and Taormina; these two lines will leave a neutral territory of twelve miles breadth on the side of Milazzo, and fifteen miles on the side of Messina, and we are of opinion that this will be of sufficient extent to prevent a collision.

The number of men that guard the Sicilian lines are reported to be—at Patti, 1000 men; La Masa, a Sicilian leader, with his regiment and a large number of armed men, mountaineers, &c., occupy San Pietro and Monte Albano, and another strong reserve is at Randazzo. On the east side there are about 1500 at Agrigò, and about a similar number at Catania.

General Filangieri complains that at this moment the Sicilians are assembling and disciplining troops, erecting batteries, &c., and only agree from necessity to an armistice to gain time, and that when they are ready they will declare that they have no need of foreign mediation and attack his posts. Having the most perfect assurance on the part of General Filangieri that the Neapolitan troops shall not pass beyond the line of demarcation, and that they will not advance until the General may receive orders to resume hostilities, the same line of conduct is recommended to the Sicilian Government, as any advance on either side must be considered as an infraction of the armistice and contrary to the good faith pledged by both parties.

Whilst things remain in this state it is recommended that the Neapolitan vessels shall trade with the towns in Sicily from the sea between Milazzo and Scaletta; and in order to avoid any collision, that the Sicilians shall trade on the other side of the line from Taormina to Patti; as it is important that the town of Messina, from its numerous population, should be supported by the contributions of the neutral territories, it is proposed that it shall pay its contributions to the Receiver-General of Messina.

We are further of opinion that the Sicilian flag shall not appear to the southward of the above places in order to avoid any collision that might lead to a breach of the armistice, and that there may be no excuse for any such proceeding, the distance shall extend to fifteen miles from the land. These terms we have thought it necessary to submit to you for the consideration of the Government of Sicily and Naples, and on their agreeing to them to form thereon the solid basis of an armistice to remain until everything is settled by the mediation of France and England.

As Admiral Tréhouart proceeds to Naples to confer with Admiral Baudin, he will be able to explain all that has passed on the occasions of our conferences with General Filangieri and the delegates from Palermo, and as we have agreed throughout in our negotiations, he will express to you the reasons which have led us to adopt the arrangements.

Yesterday afternoon the "Meteor" arrived with a clean bill of health from Malta, and ought to have got pratique here, but the quarantine officers wait for a reply to their application on her account from Naples. As she has stores for "Gladiator" I have written a protest to the Intendente, and inclose his reply. The representation of the Minister of Naples I hope will be able to get her released from quarantine by return of packet of the 24th, when I will send her to you.

I have forwarded all the despatches she brought from Malta.

The "Solon" French steam-vessel arrived from Venice last night, having left the "Locust" there, and "Terrible" and "Spartan" at Trieste. She will proceed to Milazzo in the morning to take the two Sicilian delegates there and transfer them to the "Peloro" at Patti in order to return to Palermo.

A Neapolitan frigate in tow of a steamer went to Milazzo to-day. I inclose the letters from Captain Corry, the Consul at Palermo, the Sicilian Government, the Consul at Catania, and the Decree of the Parliament of Palermo, with the official narrative of the events which led to the fall of Messina.

I purpose to send an officer in the "Solon" to-morrow to Patti to endeavour to restrain the Sicilians from any act of aggression, but I rest in the firm assurance that in the actual state of things no act of hostility will take place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN ROBB.

Inclosure 3 in No. 324.

Captain Corry to Captain Robb.

Sir,

"Superb," Palermo Bay, September 19, 1848.

1. I FORWARD to you copies of two letters I have received, and which embody a complaint from the Sicilian Government relative to an alleged breach of the armistice now existing between the troops of Sicily and Naples.

2. The Neapolitan General is I believe at Messina, and as you may have received directions from the Commander-in-chief to enforce the due observance of the armistice, I have acceded to the request preferred by the Sicilian Government, and forward copies of the requisite documents by a British officer for your information.

3. I inclose also a letter received from the British Consulate of Sicily, addressed to the Right Honourable Lord Napier, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Naples, as also despatches for Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, Bart., G.C.B., &c.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. L. CORRY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 324.

The Marquis Torrearsa to the Commander of the British Naval Forces at Palermo.

(Translation.)

Signore Comandante,

Palermo, September 17, 1848.

THE Undersigned thinks it his duty to bring to the knowledge of the Commanders of the English and French forces in the Road of Palermo, that General Filangieri, Commander of the Neapolitan troops which occupy Messina, has in disregard of the armistice agreed upon by means of the two Great Powers of France and England, caused detachments of cavalry to occupy all the villages in the neighbourhood of that city and extended his posts on the 15th instant to the neighbourhood of Barcellona.

This Government cannot forbear claiming the forcible intervention of the two Powers to stop a proceeding which from one moment to another may bring on a fierce collision. The villages occupied have been surprised when relying on the faith of a suspension of hostilities.

Hence on the one hand the English and French Commanders ought to appoint officers to fix the limits between the two belligerents, and on the other hand employ force if needful to dislodge the Neapolitans from the positions fraudulently occupied.

This Government resting assured of the good faith of the two Powers doubts not that it will readily obtain that redress which it has a right to expect.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

MARCHESE TORREARSA.

Inclosure 5 in No. 324.

*Captain Corry to Consul Goodwin.**"Superb," Palermo, September 18, 1848.*

I HAVE received a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs here, addressed jointly to the commanding officers of the English and French ships of war now at anchor in Palermo Bay, stating that a breach of the armistice lately entered into had been committed by some Neapolitan cavalry at a place between Milazzo and Messina called Barcellona.

I have to request you will acquaint his Excellency that I will forward his communication to my Commander-in-chief by the first opportunity, but that I feel it necessary to point out the very great improbability (if not impossibility) of the officer who commanded the cavalry in question being at the time aware of the existence of an armistice which had not been forty-eight hours in force even at the seat of Government here; and I naturally presume that the authorities at Barcellona have caused the circumstance to be communicated to the English and French officers stationed at Messina which, being the head-quarters of the Neapolitan General, will enable them to represent the alleged breach alluded to in the proper quarter, and to compel if necessary a more strict adherence to its enactments in future.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. L. CORRY.

Inclosure 6 in No. 324.

Consul Goodwin to Captain Corry.

Sir,

Palermo, September 18, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of this day's date requesting me to acquaint the Minister for Foreign Affairs that you will forward his communication on a breach of the armistice at Barcellona, between Palermo and Milazzo, to the Commander-in-chief, and to point out the improbability, if not impossibility, of the Neapolitan cavalry officer being aware of the existence of the armistice.

I have the honour to acquaint you that I have delivered your message and communicated your observations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Marchese Torreaarsa, the Minister in question, after thanking you for the intended reference and coinciding in the justice of your remarks, suggested the expediency of sending the "Peloros" Sicilian steamer to Messina with British and French officers on board to protect her from capture, in order to apprise the Neapolitan Commander-in-chief of the late infraction, and to draw a line of demarcation between the belligerents for the observance of the armistice in future, a suggestion he begged leave to submit for your judgment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JNO. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 7 in No. 324.

Vice-Consul Jeans to Captain Robb.

Sir,

Catania, September 14, 1848.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt this morning of your despatch of 12th instant.

The alarm that prevailed in this place on receipt of the news of the fall of Messina has diminished considerably since the arrival on the 11th of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Bulldog," by which we learnt that owing to instructions from the French Admiral the French steamer the "Panama" had followed the Neapolitan expedition bound to Syracuse with the intention of preventing further hostilities for the present; and in fact the return of the Neapolitan vessels visible from Catania has restored tranquillity comparatively to the city.

The general feeling of the thinking part of the Catanese population is averse to resistance, for it is evident that in a place whose defence has been so neglected by the Central Government in Palermo, resistance would be next akin to absurd, and that any stand against a formidable force by sea would be impossible. The Messinese refugees who arrived per "Bulldog," or rather such as remain, for some have left for Malta and others for Palermo, are endeavouring to get up a war cry which if carried into effect would only serve to bring on Catania the fate of Messina.

The fighting population in the city is very small, and the armed bands from the neighbouring towns and villages on whom so much stress was laid, have nearly all returned home. The fate of Messina has much curbed the spirit of the Sicilians in this neighbourhood.

What may be the real intention of the Catanese in case of the appearance off the city of a hostile force I cannot say, but I am sure they cannot offer any effective resistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. JEANS.

No. 325.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, October 3, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated Naples the 21st of last month, and of its inclosures, relative to the affairs between Naples and Sicily.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 325.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Hibernia," Naples, September 21, 1848.

I INCLOSE copies of the latest accounts received from Captain Robb respecting the proceedings at Messina, in which it appears that the Neapolitan General had received orders to observe the terms of the protocol agreed on by Captains Nonay and Robb on the 11th instant.

Inclosure 2 in No. 325.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

"Gladiator," Messina, September 14, 1848

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and beg to acquaint you that nothing of much importance has taken place since the departure of the French packet.

The Neapolitan squadron returned from Syracuse yesterday morning without having landed. This morning a French merchant steam-vessel arrived from Palermo, having landed at that place arms and ammunition from Toulon. She brought a captain as deputy from the Government of Palermo, on which General Filangieri required an explanation from Captain Nonay.

The French steam-packet from Naples arrived this morning and the "Sidon" this afternoon.

It is my intention to leave this at 4 o'clock to-morrow morning for Catania and Syracuse and return during the night, as it is most important to have the minds of the Sicilians tranquil on the question of the armistice, less they compromise us and themselves by some piece of folly.

If Captain Nonay had a French steamer here he would send her to accom-

pany me, but as he has not I will take him in this ship and carry on this arrangement together.

I felt much satisfaction at the receipt of your letter to-day, and it removed much anxiety from my mind, in having engaged in the suspension of hostilities in some degree on my own responsibility, but the case was so urgent that I was obliged to act at once or not at all.

It is impossible to estimate the loss of life and property among the Sicilians. The reported loss of life is not great, but the loss of property, public and private, is immense. The whole suburbs from within four miles of the town are entirely burnt down and there are very few houses that have escaped shot and shell.

Many of the people who had fled to Palermo have not yet returned to the town. Very many are houseless and have lost all their property, but there are a great many who have returned to the town.

The Sicilian colours are flying on the forts at dusk on the 6th instant, and were not at all hoisted on the morning of the 7th, and the bombardment of the town was continued although no flags were hoisted. The flags had been hoisted on all the forts on the preceding day.

No white flags nor any other demonstration of surrender was shown at any time until about 2 P.M., when the Neapolitan flag was hoisted on the Carcere Battery, nor during the whole time from 5h. 30m. A.M. until 1h. 30m. P.M. was a single shot fired from the battery.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN ROBB.

Inclosure 3 in No. 325.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

(Extract.)

"Gladiator," Messina, September 17.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that everything has remained quiet here since the departure of the "Sidon."

Yesterday morning the "Jemmapes" and "Jena," French ships of the line, and the "Descartes" frigate, arrived from Ustica, and in the eveing the French frigate "Pomone" went to Catania and Syracuse to endeavour to stop the people from any acts of aggression.

As I expected the "Bulldog" to call there I did not send an officer; and after the "Sidon" sailed I did not proceed there in the "Gladiator," as I had been informed that a telegraphic despatch had been sent from Palermo to order them to abstain from hostilities, and which has since been confirmed by the arrival of the "Bulldog," last night in quarantine, and it was not until late to-day that I got my letters.

The Neapolitan General Filangieri has received instructions from the Neapolitan Government to continue in terms of the protocol agreed on by Captain Nonay and myself; and from what the Vice-Consul at Catania writes in the inclosed letter, I do not fear for any collision until some negotiation may take place to settle the Sicilian affairs.

This afternoon the "Panama" French steam-frigate arrived from Palermo with the flag of Rear-Admiral Tréhouart. I waited on the Admiral and told him my intention of sending the "Bulldog" to you in the afternoon.

We have now three sail of the line and two steam-frigates here, and one screw steam-frigate at Catania en route for Syracuse, to return here to-morrow or next day.

Everything appears to have become so tranquil in the town that I have this day allowed officers to go on shore on leave in their proper uniforms.

Several Neapolitan steam-vessels and gun-boats have been moving about, so that their numbers are daily changing; but there are here at present in the Mole, 3 frigates, 7 steamers, and all the gun-boats taken from the Sicilians.

No. 326.

Mr. Addington to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 9, 1848.

I AM directed by Viscount Palmerston to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, inclosing copy of a despatch from Sir William Parker relative to the state of affairs in Naples and Sicily, and I am directed to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that it is Viscount Palmerston's opinion that Sir William Parker should maintain the ground he has taken up, and make good his declared intentions.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. U. ADDINGTON.

No. 327.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 14.)

(Extract.)

Naples, October 3, 1848.

ABOUT 130 of the Sicilians resident at Naples have received notice from the police to quit this capital within the term of five days, a period which will have elapsed to-morrow morning.

The prescription embraces many respectable persons who are suspected of sentiments of attachment to the cause of their native country.

They are directed to return to Sicily, but as no means of undertaking the voyage is afforded them, the greater number will find refuge in the Roman States.

It is remarked that all those who have endeavoured by counsel or pecuniary assistance to alleviate the condition of the Sicilian prisoners in confinement at Nisida, Capua, and elsewhere, are included in the number of the exiles.

Marquis Santangelo, formerly Minister of the Interior in this kingdom, has returned, but lives retired at his country seat.

Padre Coele, the confessor, has just been released from quarantine; and Morhillo and Campobasso, the old agents of police, have appeared in public at the capital, though they have not resumed their official functions.

No. 328.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 14.)

(Extract.)

Naples, October 4, 1848.

IN conformity with your Lordship's instruction of the 12th of July, I have addressed the accompanying note to the Neapolitan Government enforcing the claims of certain of Her Majesty's subjects who have sustained losses in the Porto Franco of Messina.

In the late attack on that city several British subjects have again incurred heavy damage in their property both through the bombardment and the pillage and conflagration of dwelling-houses in the suburbs, but I have not empowered Her Majesty's Consul to entertain any claims for indemnification until instructed by your Lordship.

Inclosure 1 in No. 328.

*Lord Napier to Prince Cariati.**Naples, October 3, 1848.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to submit to his Excellency Prince Cariati, &c., herewith a schedule of five claims to compensation on the part of British subjects, for losses incurred by the wanton bombardment of the Porto

Franco of Messina, amounting in all to 41,726 ounces 1 tari and 18 grains of Sicily.

The claims now presented to the attention of the Government of His Sicilian Majesty have been scrutinized by a Commission appointed by Her Majesty's Consul at Messina, to which Captain Codrington of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" lent his spontaneous assistance; they have been transmitted to Her Britannic Majesty's Government for approval, sanctioned, and returned to the Undersigned, with instructions to call upon the Neapolitan Government to make compensation to the amount proved.

The original documents illustrative and confirmatory of the present claims are in the hands of the Undersigned, and will be exhibited or temporarily consigned to any persons whom the Neapolitan Government may appoint for that purpose.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 328.

SCHEDULE of Five Claims to Indemnity for losses incurred in the Porto Franco of Messina.

	Oz.	Tari.	Grains.
Mr. J. Smithson - - - - -	13,333	24	8
Mr. J. Ross - - - - -	391	0	0
Mr. A. Catania - - - - -	5,467	16	8
Mr. Giuseppe Bindham - - - - -	398	11	16
Messrs. Löffler & Desgrand - - - - -	22,124	9	6
	Oz. 41,726	1	18

No. 329.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, October 16, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter dated the 4th instant, from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, and of its inclosures, reporting that an armistice was still in force between the Neapolitans and Sicilians, and the instructions he had issued with the view of endeavouring to maintain the same.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 329.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, October 4, 1848.

I REQUEST you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that since my last communication of the 24th ultimo, the conditional armistice obtained at Messina on the 11th September by the joint mediation of Captain Nonay of the French ship "Hercule" and Captain Robb of Her Majesty's steam-frigate "Gladiator," has by the humane and persevering assiduity of those officers been observed by the belligerents, although representations have been made on both sides of actual or attempted infractions, but the joint interposition of the French and English officers has hitherto successfully prevented collision; and the lines of demarcation alluded to in my letter above quoted have it is believed been improved and made sufficiently explicit to prevent misapprehension, although the whole rests on the verbal acknowledgment and good faith of the parties.

When reinforcements of troops and supplies of ammunition were recently forwarded from hence to replace the losses and expenditure during the late attack of Messina, the impression was so strong at Naples that the Government had ordered the Neapolitan General to resume hostile operations against the Sicilians, that I felt it right (though I discredited the assertions) to issue instructions to Captain Rich of the "Vanguard," stationed at Palermo, and to Captain Robb of the "Gladiator," at Messina, how to act in case of emergency, and have now the honour to inclose copy thereof for their Lordships' information: they will be pleased to observe that the extreme alternative is conveyed in a sealed order, the contents of which the captains are unacquainted with, nor will it be in force until they are reduced to the contingency adverted to.

I have thus endeavoured to avoid any positive departure from our position as neutrals except in an extremity which I do not think likely to occur, and for the sole object of preventing any sanguinary conflict, until the wishes of Her Majesty's Government are signified.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 329.

Order issued by Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

By Sir William Parker, Vice-Admiral of the Red, Commander-in-chief.

IT is my direction that you proceed with Her Majesty's ship "Vanguard" under your command to Palermo, for the purpose of relieving the "Superb" in the duties with which Captain Corry is charged. You will take Captain the Hon. F. Pelham of the "Odin" under your orders, and your principal object will be the protection of the persons and property of British subjects.

In consequence of the ferocious bombardment of Messina and the desolation to which the city has been thereby reduced, an armistice was agreed to on the 11th instant conditionally by General Filangieri, commanding the Neapolitan forces, on the mediation of Captain Nonay of the French ship "Hercule," and Captain Robb of the "Gladiator" (with the approval of Admiral Baudin and myself), for the suspension of hostilities between the Neapolitans and Sicilians until General Filangieri should receive instructions from his Government, the suspension of arms being equally binding on the Sicilians as on the Neapolitans.

I have reason to believe that the General has been instructed by the Neapolitan Government to adhere to the terms he agreed to, although they have not acknowledged this to Lord Napier or myself, or, as we are informed, to the French Minister at Naples; but on the contrary they have protested against our assumed intervention, and a very general report has been circulated at Naples that the Government has issued orders for the resumption of hostile operations. Such is the state of affairs here.

I am quite satisfied that Her Majesty's Government will deprecate any further act of violence and incline to the adjustment of the Sicilian differences with the Neapolitans by negotiation in concert with the Government of France, and I expect in a few days to receive special instructions on this point.

In the meantime, without raising hopes in the Sicilians which may be disappointed, it will be your endeavour to maintain the most friendly intercourse with them, and in concert with the senior officer of the French ships that may be stationed at Palermo, use your best influence to prevent any attack on the Sicilians by the Neapolitan forces on any part of the coast in your vicinity, employing such remonstrance and expostulation as may best obtain the object without having recourse to force.

Should all friendly persuasions fail, you will open and act upon the accompanying sealed order, which if you have not occasion to resort to, is to be returned to me in the state in which you receive it.

You will observe a courteous and friendly intercourse with the officers of the French ships while you remain in company, and there is reason to think that on the settlement of the question as well as in the mediation between the Italian States and Austria, the Government of France and England will consequently act as mediators.

You will be careful in the present excited state of Palermo not to have many people on shore between the setting of the evening watch and daylight, and caution the officers and men of Her Majesty's ship under your command to abstain from interference with the political affairs of the country.

The "Vanguard" and "Odin" are to receive from the "Superb" before her departure such quantity of bread, rum, tea, chocolate, and sugar as the latter ship can spare.

You will report your proceedings from time to time as opportunities occur, and send a state and condition about the 25th of each month, keeping the "Vanguard" and "Odin" complete with water and ready to put to sea at the shortest notice.

Given on board the "Hibernia," at Naples, 23rd September, 1848.

G. F. Rich, Esq.,

(Signed)

W. PARKER.

Captain of H. M. ship "Vanguard."

Inclosure 3 in No. 329.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Captain Robb.

Memo.

"Hibernia," Naples, September 27, 1848.

NOTWITHSTANDING the faithful observance of the armistice which was agreed to at Messina on the 11th instant by General Filangieri, Captain Nonay, and yourself, and the strong remonstrances that have been made to the Neapolitan Government against the renewal of hostilities before communications are received from Her Majesty's Government, a very general report has been circulated at Naples that the Neapolitan Government has issued orders for the resumption of hostile operations in Sicily.

I do not attach any belief to these assertions, which have probably obtained additional credit from the reinforcement of troops and ammunition that have as a very natural consequence of the late expenditure been sent to Messina. I am quite satisfied that Her Majesty's Government will deprecate any further act of violence and incline to the adjustment of the Sicilian differences with the Neapolitans by negotiation in concert with the Government of France, and I expect in a few days to receive special instructions on this point. In the meantime, without raising hopes in the Sicilians which may be disappointed, it will be your endeavour to maintain the most friendly intercourse with them, and in concert with the senior officer of the French ships which may be stationed at Messina, use your best influence to prevent any attack on the Sicilians by the Neapolitan forces on any part of the coast in your vicinity, employing such remonstrance and expostulation as may best obtain the object without having recourse to force.

Should all friendly persuasions fail, you will open and act upon the accompanying sealed order, which if you have not occasion to resort to is to be returned to me in the state in which you receive it.

You will observe a courteous and friendly intercourse with the officers of the French ships while you remain in company, and there is reason to think that in the settlement of the Sicilian question as well as in the mediation between the Italian States and Austria, the Governments of France and England will act conjointly as mediators.

You will however give me the earliest intelligence if there is any disposition on the part of the Neapolitans or Sicilians to break the armistice, that I may send an additional force without delay to Messina and the adjacent parts should it be necessary.

Captain Robb,

(Signed)

W. PARKER.

H. M. ship "Gladiator."

Inclosure 4 in No. 329.

Order issued by Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

[Not to be opened except in the contingency specified in the orders which accompany this.]

Memo.

"Hibernia," Naples, September 23, 1848.

IN the event of the Neapolitan forces manifesting any disposition to renew hostilities against the Sicilians on any part of the coast in the vicinity of the "Vanguard," you will use your best endeavours to persuade them to desist until the sentiments of the English Government are ascertained on this point.

If mild entreaties fail you will inform the senior officer of the Neapolitan forces that you are authorized to resist any offensive operations which may be attempted on either side, and express your hope that he will not compel you to resort to force for this purpose.

You will, if you find it necessary, place Her Majesty's ships between the assailing party and the object of attack, and having fired one or two guns in vain with powder only, you will then discharge two or three shot in the direction of the assailants, but sufficiently wide to prevent their being struck; and if all these warnings fail, you will use shot effectually to deter them from the attack, and desist the moment that object is attained.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

To Captain G. F. Rich,
H. M. ship "Vanguard."

Similar order to Captain Robb, H. M. ship "Gladiator."

No. 330.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 18, 1848.

I HAVE to instruct your Lordship to transmit to me the most detailed information which can be obtained as to the barbarities committed on each side during the conflict at Messina, and as to the extent of the devastation committed on houses and property by the Neapolitan cannonade and bombardment and by the troops.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 331.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 18, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 4th instant, inclosing a note which you had addressed to the Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the claims of British subjects to compensation for losses inflicted on them by the destruction of the Porto Francé at Messina, I have to inform your Lordship that I approve of that note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 332.

Mr. Addington to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 19, 1848.

WITH reference to your letter of the 16th instant, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, reporting the measures taken by him with a view to the maintenance of the armistice between the Neapolitan and Sicilian forces, I am directed by his Lordship to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve Sir William Parker's arrangements and orders.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. U. ADDINGTON.

No. 333.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 19.)

(Extract.)

Naples, October 10, 1848.

IN conformity with the tenour of your Lordship's instruction of the 26th ultimo, I have waited on Prince Cariati, and stated to him that Prince Casteleleale's report to the effect that your Lordship had plainly disclaimed all intention of arresting the expedition against Sicily is destitute of foundation, for your Lordship, though frequently interrogated on that subject by the Neapolitan Envoys, had always abstained from informing them of the course about to be pursued by Her Majesty's Government and the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's squadron.

Prince Cariati reiterated to me the import and the alleged words of Prince Casteleleale's despatch, namely, that on being pressed for a direct reply whether or not Sir William Parker would oppose the departure of the expedition, your Lordship answered three times—No.

No. 334.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, October 17, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the last reports which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, illustrative of the state of public feeling in different parts of Sicily.

The pamphlet by Prince Scordia alluded to appears to be of a nature too visionary to obtain much adherence. He proposes to bestow the Crown on the Prince de Joinville.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 334.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, September 28, 1848.

DESIROUS of learning the sentiments and opinions of all classes of people as to a settlement between Naples and Sicily, I have addressed myself to Prince Scordia and Butera, the Pretore of Palermo, and to Messrs. Oates and Jeans, Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls at Girgenti and Catania respectively, and I have obtained answers extracts from which I shall do myself the honour of laying before your Lordship either in translation or in the original.

Prince Scordia's answer is contained in a pamphlet entitled "The Armistice

and the Future," copies of which I beg to inclose for your Lordship and Admiral Sir William Parker.

The Prince says (page 9), after stating that the burning of Messina has given the finishing stroke to Ferdinand and his family, that the condition made by this Government in agreeing to the armistice, viz., "without any compromise of the Sicilian cause, was not sufficient, and that it ought to have been coupled with a clear and distinct statement that the interest and dignity of Sicily forbade the renewal of the dynastic question." He says "the (latter) condition is most essential, it being a question of life or death, and as such it will not escape the Ministry or the Parliament, the former of whom have made many declarations on the subject; let us treat then but only on an honourable basis; out with Ferdinand and the Bourbons."

Mr. Oates says, "Sicily may be compelled to submit to a Bourbon dynasty, but she will never come to any terms with Naples. The people may be betrayed by their Government, by their church and by some of the upper classes, but Sicily will never be quietly trodden on again. Should the mediating Powers give up the island to Ferdinand or one of his dynasty and it should be occupied by Neapolitan troops, open hostilities must not be calculated upon, but the 'vendetta Siciliana' will be exercised upon individuals or small bodies of men wherever they may be found, and Naples must calculate upon an immense sacrifice of human life every year."

Mr. Jeans says (18th Sept.), "The spirit or feelings of the inhabitants of Catania are for settlement in any way (except that Sicily be restored to the present King of Naples), provided always that Great Britain be a party to the confirmation of their privileges. In fact the basis of their idea of settlement is entire separation from Naples, with the Duke of Genoa or any other Prince not Neapolitan for their King, if possible, and, if not to be otherwise arranged, with the second son of the King of Naples for their King; provided always that in any arrangement they be entirely independent of Naples, and that their independence be guaranteed by other Powers, or in other words by Great Britain."

Mr. Jeans says further (Sept. 23), "As far as I can learn, and I have spoken with all classes here, the wish of the Catanese is to have matters settled if possible with Alberto Amedeo or some Italian Prince as their Sovereign. In default thereof they would accept the second son of the King of Naples on the fully understood condition that any settlement be under the guarantee of England, and that even if the second son of Ferdinand be sent here, the Kingdom of Sicily be entirely free and independent of that of Naples. Any union with Naples is morally impossible; it might be patched up with a promise on the part of the King of a full and unconditional amnesty, but the Sicilians fancy that first with one and then with another excuse they would be exposed to the vengeance of the King, and on their part the first opportunity would be seized on for another outbreak. The personal hatred of the two nations is excessive, and moreover the Sicilians would never be persuaded that the union would be lasting."

Your Lordship will perceive that Prince Scordia's plan offers no basis for a settlement to which the King of Naples would listen to for a moment in his bettered fortune. Mr. Oates's answer is open to the same objection; but Mr. Jeans's scheme holds out a fair prospect of accommodation in the substitution of the King's second son for his Royal father. This, if unpalatable at present when party spirit runs high, may be acceptable hereafter when angry passions and bitter feelings shall have cooled and subsided.

Inclosure 2 in No. 334.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, October 12, 1848.

IN continuation of my despatch on public opinion, I have the honour to report to your Lordship as follows.

"At Marsala," says Vice-Consul Ingham, "the principal people are dissatisfied with the Provisional Government, but incensed more than ever against Ferdinand since the wanton destruction of Messina. They are desirous that public affairs should be permanently settled, but are willing to acquiesce in a compromise,

should such be deemed necessary. They require however that the Constitution of 1812 be guaranteed by the Great Powers of Europe, or at all events by France and England, as indispensable to their security against oppression. An anxiety to get rid of the Bourbons, rather than a hope of advantage from foreign connexion, makes them desirous that Alberto Amedeo should accept the Crown.

No. 335.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 1.)

(Extract.)

Naples, October 18, 1848.

IN no part of Sicily has there been the slightest symptom of reaction, or any manifestation of a disposition towards a reconciliation with the reigning Sovereign of Naples; and the accompanying extract of a letter from Captain Robb offers a melancholy picture of the desolation which surrounds the only city which yields a forced obedience to his authority.

Inclosure in No. 335.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

(Extract.)

Messina, October 12, 1848.

IT is really sad to go out into the country, when at this season of the year it is usually so gratifying, in the direction of Catania, where the scourge of war has devastated for the space of four miles from the gates of Messina.

Not a house is standing. I do not speak figuratively, but literally, every house, church, &c., on the road and off the road have been destroyed, to say nothing of the destruction of two-thirds of the town of Messina.

No. 336.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 1.)

(Extract.)

Naples, October 21, 1848.

HAVING observed in the "Times" newspaper of the 5th and 6th instant the publication of an incorrect version of the correspondence which has passed between the Legations of Great Britain and the French Republic and the Neapolitan Government, relative to the attack on Messina, I called on the Prince of Caratì and asked his Excellency whether those documents had been given to the press with his Excellency's consent?

The Prince replied that he heard of what had happened for the first time, and that the correspondence must have been imparted to the "Times" from some other source, for he had no part in it whatever.

I then pointed out to the Minister that communications were printed which were not in the hands of Her Majesty's Legation, and others which were unknown to that of France, for there had been no mutual exchange of the respective notes, and consequently the Neapolitan Foreign Office being alone in possession of all the papers, it was clear from whence they came, though of course they must have been dishonestly obtained; and moreover that if Her Majesty's Legation had been in a position to publish them they would have published the original English text at least, instead of a disfigured version which bore internal marks of having been rendered from an Italian translation.

Prince Cariati seemed to recognize the truth of my remarks, and observed that his Government was certainly not benefited by the publication of the correspondence. I said that I was not aware whether Her Majesty's Government would view it with satisfaction or regret, that I thought it was most likely quite indifferent, and if I had adverted to it, my only concern proceeded from learning that it had occurred by some surreptitious means.

The correspondence has been since translated into the Opposition journals of Naples.

No. 337.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 2, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd ultimo reporting what passed between your Lordship and Prince Cariati relative to Prince Casteleicala's conversation with me on the Sicilian expedition, I have to observe that I have no particular recollection of the conversation which I had with Prince Casteleicala on the 4th of August; that scarcely a day passes in which I have not conversations with several foreign Ministers; and I have no time to make notes of what may have passed in such interviews. But I am quite sure that in all my conversations with Prince Casteleicala and Count Ludolf, I studiously declined to inform them whether the British squadron would or would not interfere to prevent the Neapolitan expedition from sailing for Sicily, and I am quite certain that in no conversation with Prince Casteleicala did I say the words which he has it seems put into my mouth.

I have moreover to remark that this conversation is asserted to have taken place on the 4th of August, and that the first information which Her Majesty's Government had of the intention of the Neapolitan Government to send an expedition to Sicily was contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 2nd of August which was not received at this office till the 16th of August.

This discussion has however no particular bearing upon events, because whether I did or did not give Prince Casteleicala reason to believe that the British fleet would offer no opposition to the sailing of the Neapolitan expedition, the simple fact is that no opposition or hindrance whatever was offered by the British squadron. The expedition sailed unmolested by the British squadron, the Neapolitan troops landed without being in the slightest degree interfered with by our ships. Our ships remained for seven days passive spectators of the conflict at Messina, and it was only when the British and French Admirals were so shocked at the barbarous proceedings of the Neapolitans as to be unable any longer to stand by and allow such things to be done before their eyes, that upon their own responsibility and without any previous orders from their Governments, they interposed to put a stop to cruelties unexampled in modern times.

This interference of the Admirals, though not previously ordered, has since been subsequently approved from the same considerations of humanity which led those officers to take upon themselves the responsibility of interposing between the conflicting parties.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 338.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 2, 1848.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 21st ultimo reporting what took place between your Lordship and Prince Cariati on the subject of the publication in the "Times" newspaper of the correspondence relative to the attack on Messina, I have to observe that it was obvious that the copies of the correspondence in question which were published in that paper must have come from the Neapolitan Government, for the reasons which your Lordship mentions, namely that no party but the Neapolitan Government could be in possession of all that was so published. But Her Majesty's Government, though they could not but feel that this proceeding was a blameable departure from the established usages of European Governments in regard to diplomatic correspondence, yet considered the publication rather calculated to be serviceable than injurious to them, and I did not think it worth while to notice the matter in any manner to Prince Casteleicala.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 339.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, November 1, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated at Naples the 19th of last month, with one addressed by him to the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Palermo and one received by him in reply.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 339.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, October 19, 1848.

WITH reference to my letter of the 21st ultimo, inclosing one which I had received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sicilian Government, I now transmit for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of my reply thereto together with that of another letter from the Marquis Torrearsa.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 339.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Marquis Torrearsa.

Excellency,

"Hibernia," Naples, October 8, 1848.

SINCE I was favoured with your Excellency's letter last month I have anxiously but not doubtingly expected the full approbation of my Government for the course I have adopted in conjunction with Lord Napier at Naples, and in concurrence with the distinguished Commander-in-chief of the squadron of France, to put a stop to the desolating hostilities of which Messina has unfortunately been the victim.

These expectations have not been disappointed, the desired intimation reached me on the 4th instant, and I trust that in a very few days further despatches will develop the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the adjustment of the affairs of Sicily.

In the meantime allow me to express my hopes that the conditional armistice which was agreed upon by the mediation of the English and French officers on the 11th September, and the line of demarcation between the opponent forces subsequently arranged (on the 28th), will not be disturbed.

Sincerely sympathising on the present misfortunes of your country and cordially participating in every wish for its welfare and prosperity,

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. PARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 359.

The Marquis Torrearsa to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

I THANK your Excellency for the kind communication contained in your Excellency's despatch of the 8th instant.

The Government of Great Britain, guided always by sentiments of justice and by the decorum of its own greatness, could not but approve your Excellency's noble conduct in the actual state of affairs in Sicily.

The barbarous way in which the Neapolitan army occupied Messina could not possibly pass unobserved in the presence of the English and French fleets, and the Commanders of these two Powers know well that the cause of humanity rests in the hands of their respective Governments.

The Sicilian Government with that deference which has guided its footsteps from the very beginning of the Revolution, has promptly accepted the propositions made to it by the two Governments for the armistice, and now ever guided by that same moderation has agreed to the lines of demarcation and to all such other arrangements which may be thought suitable to ensure the maintenance of the armistice.

The two mediating Powers will no doubt appreciate the principles by which this Government is guided, and they may remain convinced that to the determined sentiments of defending its independence and free institutions it knows how to unite that moderation which is always the rule of every civilized Government.

I beg, &c.

(Signed)

MARCHESE DI TORREARSA.

No. 340.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.—(Received November 3)

(Extract.)

Admiralty, November 2, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated Naples the 24th of last month, and of its inclosures, reporting that everything remains quiet in Sicily.

Inclosure in No. 340.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Hibernia," Naples, October 24, 1848.

I HAVE satisfaction in reporting that the accounts which I receive from Captain Rich of the "Vanguard" at Palermo, and from Captain Robb of the "Gladiator" at Messina, state that everything remains quiet; that the latter port is resuming its usual activity, and business appears to be carried on as before the Revolution; but all Captain Robb's observations tend to confirm the first accounts of the extreme destruction that has been produced by the late bombardment. Feelings of dissatisfaction are occasionally manifested by the Sicilians and Neapolitans about the terms of the armistice, lines of demarcation, &c., both parties being very sensitive on the subject; as yet they are of trifling import, but with mild persuasion and the knowledge that we are determined to have the armistice observed until further instructions arrive, I trust there will be no serious interruption to the present suspension of hostilities.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 3, 1848.

IF on your arrival at Naples you should not find a settlement of the differences between Sicily and Naples already effected upon the basis of one of the two plans mentioned in my despatch of the 11th of September to Lord Napier, you will immediately place yourself in communication with the French Minister, and you will in concert and in conjunction with him enter into negotiations with the Neapolitan Government and with the persons who may be in authority in Sicily with a view to bring about an accommodation between the Sicilians and the King.

You are instructed thus to place yourself in communication with the French Minister at Naples because Her Majesty's Government and the Government of France are entirely agreed as to the nature of the arrangements which it would be desirable to effect between Sicily and Naples.

The views of Her Majesty's Government on this matter are stated in my above-mentioned despatch to Lord Napier, and they are the same which from the beginning of these affairs Her Majesty's Government have invariably entertained.

On the one hand the British Government being animated by the most friendly feelings towards the monarchy of Naples, cannot wish to see the power or the dignity of that Monarchy in any degree impaired; on the other hand Great Britain having in former times and by peculiar circumstances been thrown into close connexion and intimate relations with the people of Sicily, the British Government must on that account not only take a deep interest in the concerns of that island, but must feel an honourable obligation to do all that may be properly within the power of Great Britain in order to promote the welfare of the Sicilian people.

Many circumstances which it is needless to enumerate have combined it is true to create between Naples and Sicily feelings of dislike, which recent events have inflamed into a high degree of mutual exasperation, and on both sides the channel, but especially in Sicily, passions have been excited which are unfavourable to a continued connexion between the two countries.

But it appears nevertheless to Her Majesty's Government that it is for the well-understood and permanent interest both of Sicily and Naples, that the connexion between them should be maintained; and the temporary violence of excited passions does not appear to be an obstacle of sufficient magnitude to deter Her Majesty's Government from endeavouring by means of negotiation to persuade the two parties to consent that their connexion should be maintained.

Considering the similarity in race and language between the two countries, and their close geographical nearness to each other, the most desirable arrangement would seem to be, that they should be united not merely by having one and the same Sovereign, but also by having one and the same legislature between them.

If the Neapolitan Government had chosen many years ago to grant a Constitution to the Neapolitans, and to maintain constitutional institutions in Sicily, it is probable that a legislative union between the two countries might have been established, and that by means of such an union the people of the two, might gradually have been welded into one national mass. But love of arbitrary sway and dislike to Representative Government have always prevailed at the Court of Naples, and the Kings of Naples have not only withheld Constitutional institutions from their Neapolitan subjects, but have practically taken them away from their subjects in Sicily.

It therefore happened that when in the early part of this year the Sicilians rose in arms to demand the re-establishment of their Constitution of 1812, and when the course of events in Europe led the King of Naples to determine to grant a Constitution to his continental subjects, the practical question came to be, not whether an existing legislative union should be maintained or dissolved, but whether a legislative union which never had before existed, should then for the first time be created. When this question was presented to the Sicilians,

they looked back upon the past, and finding therein nothing but reasons for distrust, they could feel no confidence in the future. They feared that if their constitutional rights were bound up with and made to depend upon the maintenance of a Constitution at Naples, those rights would be exposed to great dangers, and they determined as a measure of security, that their legislature should be separate and purely Sicilian.

This determination of theirs the King of Naples at length deemed it expedient to acquiesce in; and the points of difference between him and the Sicilians upon which the negotiations between them at last broke off, did not belong to the question whether there should be one or two Legislatures for Naples and Sicily, but related to the details of the administrative arrangements to be established for Sicily upon the admitted principle that the Sicilian Legislature should be entirely separate and distinct from the Legislature of Naples.

It was upon the failure of the negotiations set on foot to settle those matters, that the Sicilian Parliament declared the deposal of the Bourbon Royal Family, and resolved to elect a Prince of some other House to be their King.

It is impossible then in the present state of things to attempt to establish between Naples and Sicily any closer connexion than that, which would consist in the fact of the two Crowns being placed on the same head. But this connexion Her Majesty's Government think it would be desirable for the good of the two countries and for the general interests of Europe to maintain, and in this opinion the Government of France concurs.

You will state therefore to the Neapolitan Minister that this is the arrangement which Her Majesty's Government have all along wished and still wish to see accomplished; and you will say that you are instructed to tender to the Neapolitan Government your good offices, in conjunction with those of the French Minister, for the purpose of endeavouring to carry this arrangement into effect.

But in trying to carry out this arrangement you may meet with difficulties both at Naples and in Sicily. The only conditions on which this plan could have a chance of being adopted would be, that the King, retaining on his head the Crown of Sicily as well as that of Naples, should govern Sicily by a Vice-Roy who should be appointed by him and who should reside in Sicily; and that the Sicilians should have the full enjoyment, in other respects, of their Constitution of 1812, with a Sicilian Parliament, a Sicilian Administration, and a Sicilian Army without there being any Neapolitan troops in the island. These arrangements being of course accompanied or rather preceded by a general and complete amnesty.

The King of Naples agreed in the early part of the present year to an arrangement of this kind, with the exception of that part of it which relates to the Military force; but he would not then consent to the condition that there should be no Neapolitan troops in Sicily; and as the Sicilians would not give way upon this point, and insisted that the Military force in Sicily should be entirely Sicilian, it was upon this mainly that the negotiation then broke off.

It is possible that the King of Naples may again take his stand upon the same point, and he may conceive himself encouraged to do so, by the recent success of his troops at Messina. But if this should be, you will represent to him that it is impossible to expect that the Sicilians will consent now to that which they refused before; and that the events which have lately taken place at Messina must naturally have put it entirely out of the question that the Sicilians should agree to the presence of any Neapolitan force within their island. You will point out that a large Neapolitan force in Sicily would be a most legitimate object of fear to the Sicilians, who would always imagine that such a force would be employed to overthrow their Constitution and to deprive them of their lawful rights; while a small force would be of no use to the King, but would be to the Sicilians a visible and outward memorial of the calamities which Sicily has lately suffered, and would therefore keep incessantly alive jealousy and resentment which it is the interest of the King to efface.

In open barracks or in quarters, a small Neapolitan force would be exposed to insult or molestation, and nobody can suppose that the Sicilians would consent to leave in the hands of Neapolitan troops any strong post like the citadel of Messina, from whence any of their towns might be bombarded and destroyed.

It is therefore essentially necessary that the King should consent to the

condition that the military force in Sicily should be Sicilian; but of course that force would take the oath of allegiance to him as King of Sicily and would be under his orders as such.

It has been represented that in such a state of things, the King would have no security for the continuance of his authority, and that reigning only by the good will of the Sicilians, he would be liable at any moment to be deposed; but in such a state of things he would be conscious that he reigned only by the good-will of the Sicilians, and he would feel it necessary to conciliate that good-will; and this he could only do, by taking care that his administration of Sicilian affairs was just and generous, and that all classes of the people of the country were secured from those grievances which have hitherto inspired them with well-founded discontent. If the King should so reign in Sicily, the Sicilians would have nothing to gain by deposing him, and would cease to have any motive for doing so.

But supposing the King of Naples to agree to these conditions, there is still reason to fear that this arrangement will meet with great opposition on the part of the Sicilians.

The Sicilian deputies now here declare it to be impossible, and letters which have lately been received in this country from Palermo express the same opinion.

The arguments employed in support of these opinions may generally be stated as follows.

It is said that the Crown of Sicily has always been of right, although it has not been in fact, separate from that of Naples; and that this separation of the two Crowns was specially and distinctly established by the Eighth Article of the Constitution of 1812, which provided that whenever the King of Sicily should remove out of the island to govern another country, he should transfer the Crown of Sicily to another member of his family, and it is said that this Article was accepted by the Placet of the then Sovereign, as regarded the independence of the Sicilian Crown.

It is alleged that the 104th Article of the Treaty of Vienna only recorded that the Powers who signed it, had agreed to acknowledge the King of Naples by the style and title of King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies; but that the assumption of this title by him and its acknowledgment by the Powers who signed the Treaty could not abrogate the compact between the Sicilian Crown and the Sicilian people, nor deprive Sicily of its Constitutional rights.

It is further argued that the suspension of the Sicilian Constitution by the Decree of 1816 was an arbitrary and illegal act of the Neapolitan Government, not sanctioned by the Sicilian Parliament, which alone could, in conjunction with the King, have the power to alter the Constitution of 1812; and that consequently as Sicily has, since the date of that decree, been in an illegal condition, the fact of its having during that period been governed in union with Naples, constitutes no right on the part of the Crown of Naples, and abrogates no rights previously enjoyed by the Sicilians. It is contended for these reasons that the Sicilians are entitled to the full benefits of all the provisions of the Constitution of 1812, and that by that Constitution they have a right to have a Sovereign of their own, separate and distinct from the Sovereign of the Kingdom of Naples.

It is further said that there has been nothing in the conduct of the present King of Naples, which can induce the Sicilians to waive in his favour that which they consider to be their right. Great complaints are made of the misgovernment which has prevailed in Sicily during his reign. It is alleged that he has always evinced a hostile feeling towards Sicily and the Sicilians; and it is said that all the evils which the Sicilians have had to endure from the Neapolitan troops since the beginning of the present year, are ascribed in public opinion to the King personally; and that at the present moment the aversion felt for him by the whole Sicilian people is so bitter and so universal, that nobody would venture to propose that the Sicilians should again acknowledge him as their Sovereign.

The reply to these arguments is, that whatever may have been the historical origin of the Sicilian Kingdom, in point of fact Sicily and Naples have for a long course of time been united under the same sovereignty, and that the Article of the Constitution of 1812 which provided for the separation of the two Crowns was framed under peculiar political circumstances, and with

a view to a state of things very different from that which at present exists. That the two Crowns have ever since 1814 been worn on the same head, and that the Sicilians did in the early part of this year consent to the continuance of their union. That Sicily, though a fine island, full of natural resources and inhabited by a highly-gifted people, is nevertheless not large enough to be in the present state of the world a really independent country; and that if it was entirely separated from Naples, it would run the risk of becoming an object of contest for foreign influence, and of sinking at last into the condition of satellite to some one of the more powerful States of Europe.

That the permanent interests and natural affinities of Sicily tend to ally it by preference with Italy, and that a close connexion with Naples, its nearest Italian neighbour, seems pointed out by many obvious considerations.

That the angry excitement which at the present moment seems to oppose a bar to the connexion of the two countries will pass away with the causes which have created it; and that when the grievances of the Sicilians shall have been redressed, private interests will come into play, and the mutual wants and reciprocal dependence of the two countries will strengthen the union of the Crowns, by connecting together the people of Naples and Sicily by those social ties which are often stronger than political institutions.

That with regard to the King of Naples, the unfavourable opinion which is said to be entertained of him by the people of Sicily, has no just or adequate foundation; and that the evils which they ascribe to him personally, were not the results of his orders or ill-will, but the natural consequences of the abuse of arbitrary power delegated to subordinate agents unrestrained by constitutional responsibility. That these personal feelings will soon be forgotten when the conflicts which gave rise to them shall have ceased; and that at all events personal feelings of this kind, even if they had a better foundation, ought not to prevail against national interests, nor be allowed to stand in the way of arrangements founded upon large considerations and calculated for extended duration.

Both the King and the Sicilians ought to feel how infinitely an immediate and friendly settlement of their differences ought to be preferred to a renewal and to a continuance of armed conflict between them. On the one hand the King must have discovered by the obstinate resistance made to his troops at Messina, that he was deceived by those who led him to believe that he had many partisans in Sicily, and that as soon as his troops should land, they would be joined by great numbers of the people. He must now plainly see that if his authority is to be re-established in Sicily by force and not by persuasion, that force must be entirely from without, and will derive no assistance from any party within the island.

He must also perceive from the losses sustained by his troops even at Messina, where the protection which they derived from the strong fortress which they occupied enabled them to act with advantage, that his further progress in reducing the island must be attended with a great sacrifice of life, a vast effusion of blood, and a great expenditure of money; and he must be aware that even if he were to succeed in making himself master of the principal sea-port towns and of the sea-board of the island, it would be next to impossible for him to establish any useful authority in the interior; and that if the cities which his troops might occupy, and the country around them were to share the fate of Messina and its neighbourhood, he might indeed have the satisfaction of knowing that he had severely punished the Sicilians for their revolt, but he would have added nothing to the resources of his State, nor to the strength and power of his monarchy.

But on the other hand he must consider that the chances of war are uncertain, and that if they should turn out to be against him, and if from any cause whatever he should be obliged at last to retire from the contest, such a defeat would not only lose him Sicily entirely and for ever, but might materially affect the security of his Neapolitan Throne.

The Sicilians on the other hand ought to be influenced by prudential considerations of a similar kind. They ought to feel that the King starts in the contest with many advantages which they do not possess. That he is stronger in pecuniary resources, in organized and disciplined forces, military and naval, and in all the materials of war. That notwithstanding the courage and self-devotion of the Sicilian levies, the Neapolitan troops may be able to

burn towns, to lay waste districts, to destroy a vast amount of property, and to create an immense extent of misery in the island; and that the prolonged resistance of a brave population against a disciplined army, though it may bestow upon the country which makes it, everlasting fame, must yet be attended with unspeakable calamity to the existing generation; and that therefore although the sacrifice is one, which a high-minded nation would never hesitate to make for an adequate cause, yet it beboves those who would call upon their fellow-countrymen to resign themselves to such extremities, well to consider beforehand whether in reality there be any necessity for such a course.

In the present case everything that the Sicilians can reasonably wish for in the way civil and political rights and of Constitutional guarantees, is offered for their acceptance; and the only ground upon which their popular leaders could call upon their fellow-countrymen to encounter all the calamities to which I have adverted, would be the personal dislike to his present Neapolitan Majesty. It is scarcely possible to imagine that those leaders could seriously call upon their countrymen to make such sacrifices for such a motive, or that the Sicilian nation if so called upon, would obey such a call.

But the Sicilians, as well as the King, should remember how doubtful are the issues of war.

The arrangement which I have been now discussing seems to Her Majesty's Government so far preferable to any other, that you will not easily give up the hope of being able to persuade the Sicilians to agree to it; nor will you propose any other arrangement without fresh instructions from hence to do so. And Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that in pressing this plan strongly and perseveringly upon the Sicilians, you will have the sincere and earnest co-operation of your French colleague.

You will of course consider yourself at liberty to go over to Palermo to communicate personally with the Sicilian leaders on these matters if you should find it useful to do so.

If this plan, after earnest and persevering endeavours to get it agreed to by the two parties, should prove to be impracticable, it will then be expedient to propose to the two that the above-mentioned Article of the Constitution of 1812 should be carried strictly into execution, and that the Crown of Sicily should be devolved upon one of the sons of the King of Naples. To this plan it is understood that the Sicilians would be willing to consent; but to this plan there is reason to believe the King of Naples would not be willing to agree.

Such an arrangement would in some respects be better than one which would introduce an entirely new dynasty into Sicily, because it would preserve a family connexion between the Crowns of Sicily and Naples, and would so far tend to diminish the inconveniences which sooner or later Sicily as well as Naples would experience by separation from each other. But this plan would be liable to the objection that it would consist in a separation of the Two Crowns; and as the sons of the King of Naples are very young, Sicily would have to encounter for several years the great inconveniences of a Regency; and there might also be some difficulty in settling the arrangements of such a Regency in a manner satisfactory both to the King of Naples and to the Sicilians.

Although then I deem it right at once to mention this second plan to you as one which Her Majesty's Government would instruct you to co-operate with your French colleague in proposing, if all your joint endeavours to procure the assent of the two parties to the first plan should prove ineffectual, it is desirable that this second plan should not for the present be discussed or adverted to, lest the doing so should diminish the chances of success in regard to the first.

You are aware that no instructions were given either to the British or to the French Admiral to prevent the sailing of the late Neapolitan expedition against Sicily, nor to interfere with the operations which the Neapolitan armament might carry on against the island.

Her Majesty's Government deeply deplored the calamities which a renewal of hostilities in Sicily were inevitably calculated to produce; but Her Majesty's Government nevertheless did not deem the case to be one which could justify so strong a measure as a forcible interference on the part of Great Britain to prevent the King of Naples from employing the means at his command for the purpose of re-establishing his authority in Sicily.

The expedition therefore sailed from Naples, and the troops were landed in Sicily without interruption either from the British or from the French squadron; the operations of the Neapolitan troops against Messina were begun and carried on with equal freedom from interference; and if the Neapolitans had conducted their hostilities according to the usual practice of civilized nations; if subjugation and not destruction had appeared to be their object; and if their attacks had been solely directed against armed opponents, instead of being aimed at the extermination of the unresisting and the helpless, the naval Commanders of the two squadrons would no doubt have continued to preserve their neutral position.

But the barbarities committed by the Neapolitans revolted the feelings of the British and French Admirals. Those officers were unable, as civilized and Christian men, to stand by and remain passive spectators of such scenes as were enacting before their eyes; and though without instructions to interfere, they took upon themselves the responsibility of calling upon the contending parties to establish a suspension of hostilities with a view to negotiation under the auspices of the two Governments, such armistice to last until it should be known whether this act of the two Admirals would be sanctioned by their respective Governments.

Both the British and the French Governments have felt that they could do no otherwise than confirm the steps taken by the Naval Commanders; and therefore on your arrival at Naples you will find the armistice still in force in Sicily, and you will state to the Neapolitan Government and to the Sicilians that it is necessary that this armistice should still continue in order that the negotiations with which you and the French Minister are charged may be carried on in a suitable manner.

Her Majesty's Government have no reason to believe that either of the contending parties will feel any desire to break through the armistice, but you will be careful to impress equally upon both the absolute necessity of respecting the armistice while these negotiations are going on.

You will of course place yourself in confidential communication on these matters with Sir William Parker, who will co-operate with you cordially in all matters in which his assistance may be useful, and in whose judgment and discretion Her Majesty's Government place full and entire confidence.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 342.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 3, 1848.

WITH reference to my other despatch of this day's date, I have to state that if an arrangement is come to between the King of Naples and the Sicilians, one or both of the parties may express a wish that such arrangement should be guaranteed by the mediating Powers. Her Majesty's Government however would be very unwilling to enter into any guarantee which would bear upon matters relating so entirely to the internal affairs of another country, and which would impose obligations which in many conceivable contingencies might involve this country in very inconvenient embarrassments. It might however be hoped that the object with which such guarantee would be asked for might in some degree be attained, if the agreement which may be come to were to be formally recorded in a protocol to be signed by the Ministers of the mediating Powers and by the Minister of the King of Naples, and also, if the King of Naples should not object thereto, by the head of the Provisional Government at Palermo, or by such other person as might in the present state of things be considered as representing the people of Sicily.

Such a protocol so made would indeed be the natural way in which the result of the negotiation would be recorded; it would give solemnity to the arrangement, and it would afford to Great Britain and France the right of remonstrance if the terms of the agreement should hereafter be departed from

on either side, while it would not impose on Great Britain or France any obligation in any case to interfere.

I inclose for your information and guidance the skeleton form of such a protocol.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 342.

Draft Protocol of a Conference held at Naples, 1848, between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, France, and the Two Sicilies, and the Agent of the Provisional Government established at Palermo.

THE Governments of France and of Great Britain having offered to His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies and to the people of Sicily their good offices with a view to arrange by the friendly mediation of the two Powers the differences which have unfortunately arisen between His Majesty and his Sicilian subjects, and that offer having been accepted by both parties, and negotiations upon those matters having in consequence been carried on at Naples, the result has been that the two parties have agreed to the following arrangement, which they have resolved in conjunction with the Plenipotentiaries of the mediating Powers to record in the present Protocol.

1st. His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies engages to publish forthwith a full, complete, and general amnesty for all persons who have taken any part whatever in the political transactions which at any time up to the day of signing the present Protocol have taken place in Sicily; and His Majesty further engages that no Sicilian shall in any way be made to suffer by reason of the share which he may have had in such past transactions.

2nd. The King of the Two Sicilies further engages, &c. [here insert *seriatim* the agreements which may be come to in regard to the Sicilian Constitution, Parliament, Administration, Tribunals, Army, Viceroy, &c.].

The Sicilians on the other hand acknowledge the King as Sovereign of Sicily, and engage to accept the conditions specified in the preceding Sections 1 to

(Signed)

No. 343.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 10.)

(Extract.)

Naples, October 31, 1848.

VICE-ADMIRAL BAUDIN left Naples last night in a steam-vessel of war on a tour of inspection to the several Sicilian ports.

He probably desires to inform himself by personal observation of the spirit and disposition of the Sicilians in different parts of the island, and to visit the ships of war which for some time past have been detached from the flag.

Two three-deckers have gone to Toulon, and the squadron is now distributed between Naples, Syracuse, and the Adriatic Sea.

No. 344.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 10.)

My Lord,

Naples, November 1, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of correspondence communicated to me by Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, relative to the settlement of the armistice in Sicily and the demarcation of the neutral territory, of which the Vice-Admiral has caused a sketch to be prepared for your Lordship's information.

General Filangieri has had reason to complain of a printed statement put

forth at Palermo, in which he is represented to have adhered to two Articles recognizing Great Britain and France as guarantees of the present suspension of hostilities, and providing that a notice of ten days will be afforded before the resumption of active operations.

Neither of those conditions were proposed to General Filangieri by the officers of the combined squadrons, and they consequently could not have been accepted by him.

The error of the Sicilian authorities in circulating such a misstatement is however rather one of form than fact, for certainly the armistice is actually imposed by Great Britain and France and cannot be broken without their consent, and in case the recommencement of the war should unfortunately prove unavoidable, it is scarcely to be supposed that it would occur without the period of warning usually granted to either party on similar occasions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 344.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

"Hibernia," Naples, October 29, 1848.

YOUR Lordship is aware that shortly after the fall of Messina to the Neapolitan forces on the 8th of September last, a conditional armistice between the contending parties and lines of demarcation embracing the points delineated in the accompanying sketch were agreed to between the Neapolitan and Sicilian forces under an arrangement proposed by the French and English officers of the ships stationed at Messina and Palermo, who were respectively in communication with the Neapolitan General at Messina and the Sicilian Government at Palermo.

By a letter from Captain Robb dated the 21st instant, of which a copy is now forwarded, it appears that some dissatisfaction has been expressed by the Neapolitan General Filangieri, that a printed paper (of which a copy is herewith furnished) has been published at Palermo, purporting to contain the conditions of the existing armistice, wherein two separate articles and other statements appeared which had never been imparted to him.

Having communicated with the French Rear-Admiral Tréhouart, who in conjunction with Captain Rich of the "Vanguard" finally settled the boundary lines with the Sicilian Government at Palermo, I deemed it expedient to desire Captain Robb of the "Gladiator" to offer an explanation to General Filangieri on the points which have given him umbrage, and now inclose for your Lordship's information copies of my letters to Captain Rich of the "Vanguard" and Captain Robb, which I hope and trust will remove any unfavourable impression from the mind of the General, and satisfy him that there has not been any intention on the part of the English and French officers to deceive or mislead him on any point.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 344.

Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

Sir,

"Gladiator," Messina, October 21, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that everything remains quiet here; the port is resuming its usual activity and business appears to be carried on as before the Revolution.

The day before yesterday in a conference with General Filangieri his Excellency complained of a pretended copy of the conditions of the armistice having been printed and circulated by the Sicilian Government at Palermo (copy of which I inclose), and objected particularly to the paragraphs which I have marked between the crosses, as not having been submitted to him or

received his concurrence. I assured the General that there must have been some mistake, as the conditions contained in the Article No. 4 had not been submitted to him by us, and that I would make you acquainted with the subject.

His Excellency appeared to be satisfied with this explanation for the present, and I now make you acquainted with this circumstance that some explanation may be given, for both Captain Nonay and myself had instructions from Admiral Tréhouart and Captain Rich not to propose the 3rd and 4th Article of the modifications to General Filangieri, and which in consequence was not submitted to him.

With regard to the Governments of England and France becoming guarantees for the observance of the armistice as held forth in the last paragraph, I beg to assure you that in all my correspondence and intercourse with both parties I have carefully avoided giving any guarantee whatever or pledging myself or the English Government to anything that could be construed as such, and unless Captain Rich has given the guarantee, the paragraph in question must be a mistake and may yet be corrected.

The Neapolitans are repairing the forts of St. Salvatore and the citadel and other forts in the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ROBB.

Inclosure 3 in No. 344.

Conditions of the Armistice between the Sicilians and Neapolitans.

LINEE di demarcazione e convenzioni per l'armistizio stabilito dai Signori Comandanti delle forze navali Inglesi e Francesi, e proposto per parti del Governo di Napoli al General Filangieri, Comandante in capo delle forze Napolitane in Messina, e per parte del Governo Siciliano al Signor Marchese di Torrearsa, Ministro degli Affari Esteri e del Commercio, i quali rispettivamente le anno accettate e si impegnano di rispettarle e farle osservare.

Linee di Demarcazione.

Linea Napolitana.

Congiunzione della Strada di Barcellona con quella di Vatti, compresi S. Antonio e il telegrafo (ultimo avanzato.)

Barcellona (Centinea, Vozzo di Gotto.)

Linea che da Barcellona va dritto su la cresta dei monti per la direzione di Rossimano, Artalsa, Scaletta.

Linea Siciliana.

Montagna e Capo Tindaro.

Casalnuovo.

Trifù.

Noara.

Graniti.

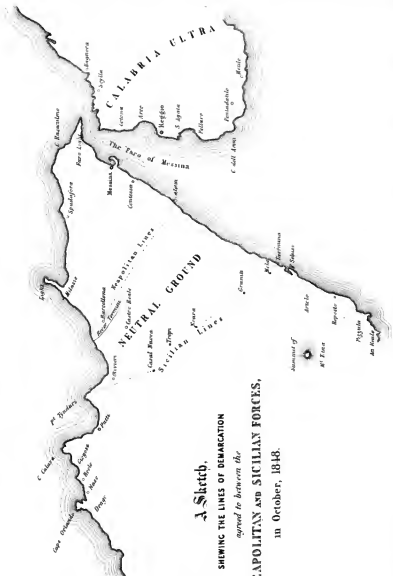
Mola.

Taormina.

Tutta la contrada compresa tra le due linee di sopra designate rimarrà neutrali. Nessuna guerriglia nè bersagliere armato potrà penetrare entro questa zona tanto da parte dei Napolitani che da quella dei Siciliani.

Ogni infrazione di questa convenzione sarà considerata come rottura dell'armistizio.

Essendo indispensabile provvedere al sostegno dei Siciliani abitanti di Messina che hanno sofferto durante lo stato di guerra, le imposte della contrada che rimane neutrale tra le due linee saranno versate nella cassa municipale di Messina, perchè le autorità Siciliane ne dispongano all'uso suddetto.



A Sketch.
SHOWING THE LINES OF DEMARCATION
agreed to between the
NEAPOLITAN AND SICILIAN FORCES,
in October, 1848.

Resta perciò convenuto che i percettori della zona neutrale il prima di ogni mese, durante l'armistizio porteranno a Oliviera e a Taormina le imposte esistenti che scuderanno, e che essi percepiranno da oggi in poi, il due di ogni mese battelli a vapore Francesi e Inglesi andranno a levare l'ammontare di tali imposti, che in sacchi suggellati sarà rimesso ai Comandanti di tali vapori.

Questi Comandanti rimetteranno questi sacchi ai Consoli di Inghilterra e di Francia in Messina, i quali da parte loro li consegneranno alla cassa municipale di quella città.

I Comandanti e i Consoli assisteranno all'apertura de' sacchi presso l'agente della cassa municipale, e nel caso che la somma in essi contenuta non corrisponderà alla dichiarazione degli agenti Siciliani che l'avranno consegnati a Olivieri e a Taormina ne sarà fatto process verbale.

La guistizia ed ogni altro di ramo pubblico servizio nel paese neutro saranno amministrati a nome del Governo Siciliano e secondo le leggi attualmente ivi in vigore, ed il Governo Siciliano per il buono andamento dell'amministrazione continuerà a corrispondere regolarmente colle sue autorità dipendente.

Si conviene inoltre che la guardia nazionale della zona neutrale non potrà pigliare le armi che nell'interesse della pubblica sicurezza e come misura di ordine interno.

La bandiera Siciliana non si mostrerà che alla distanza di quindici miglia del litorale dei punti occupati dell'armata Napolitana da Milazzo sino a Scaletta comprese le Insole di Lipari, e passando per lo Stretto di Messina.

Da parte loro, i Napolitani osserveranno questa medesima convenzione, e non mostreranno la loro bandiera al di là dei punti estremi da loro occupati.

† Resta convenuto che le ostilità non potranno ripigliarsi che dieci giorni dopo che ne sarà dato avviso al Governo Siciliano per mezzo de' Comandanti delle forze navali Inglesi e Francesi in Palermo.†

Resta d' accordo convenuto che il piccolo posto di Olivieri rimane compreso dentro la zona neutrale, e che le truppe Siciliane non potranno occuparlo durante l'armistizio.

† L'armistizio è garantito dalla Inghilterra e dalla Francia, come hanno assicurato i Comandanti delle rispettive forze navali in Palermo.†

Il Presidente del Governo del Regno di Sicilia fa noto l'anzidetto a tutte le città e comuni del regno per la corrispondente intelligenza ed esatta osservanza.

Palermo, 12 Ottobre, 1848.

Il Presidente del Governo del Regno di Sicilia,
(Firmato) RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri e del Commercio,
(Firmato) MARCHESE DI TORREARSA.

(Translation.)

LINES of Demarcation and Stipulations of the Armistice established by the Commanders of the English and French naval forces, and proposed to the Neapolitan Government through General Filangieri, Commander-in-chief of the Neapolitan forces at Messina, and to the Sicilian Government through the Marquis of Torreaarsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commerce, who have each respectively accepted them, and pledged themselves to respect them and cause them to be observed.

Lines of Demarcation.

Neapolitan Line.

Junction of the Barcellona and Patti Roads, including S. Antonio and the telegraph (last outpost.)

Barcellona (Centinea, Pozzo di Gotto.)

The line from Barcellona straight over the top of the mountains in the direction of Rossimano, Artassa, and Scaletta.

Sicilian Line.

Mountain and Cape Tindari.

Casalnuovo.

Trifu.

Noara.

Granita.

Mola.

Taormina.

All the country situated between the two lines above mentioned shall remain neutral ground. No armed bands or riflemen shall penetrate within this zone, either on the part of the Neapolitans or on that of the Sicilians.

Every infraction of this convention shall be considered as a rupture of the armistice.

It being indispensably necessary to provide for the support of the inhabitants of Messina who have suffered during the war, the taxes levied from the neutral ground between the two lines shall be paid into the municipal fund of Messina, in order that the Sicilian authorities may apply them to the above-mentioned purpose. It is moreover agreed that the tax-gatherers of the neutral zone shall on the 1st of each month during the armistice carry to Olivieri and to Taormina the amount of the taxes which may become due, and which they shall commence collecting from henceforth. On the 2nd of each month English and French steamers shall proceed to take on board these sums, which shall be consigned to the Commanders of the said steamers in sealed bags.

The Commanders shall deliver the said bags to the English and French Consuls at Messina, who shall on their part make them over to the municipal fund of that city.

The Commanders and Consuls shall be present at the opening of the bags before the agent of the municipal fund, and in case the contents shall not correspond with the declaration of the Sicilian agents who delivered them at Olivieri and at Taormina, a *procès-verbal* shall be drawn up.

Justice and every other branch of the public service shall be administered in the neutral ground in the name of the Sicilian Government, and according to laws actually in force; and the Sicilian Government shall continue to superintend the administration of those laws by corresponding regularly with its subordinate authorities.

It is moreover agreed that the National Guard of the neutral zone shall not take up arms except in the defence of the public safety and for the preservation of order.

The Sicilian flag shall not appear within the distance of fifteen miles from the sea shore of the points occupied by the Neapolitan army, from Milazzo to Scaletta, including the Islands of Lipari, and passing by the Straits of Messina.

The Neapolitans, on the other hand, shall abide by the same agreement, and shall not exhibit their flag beyond the extreme points occupied by them.

† It is agreed that hostilities shall not be recommenced until after ten days' notice shall have been given to the Sicilian Government through the Commanders of the English and French naval forces at Palermo.†

It is mutually agreed that the small port of Olivieri is comprised within the neutral zone, and that the Sicilian troops shall not occupy it during the armistice.

† The armistice is guaranteed by England and by France, as declared by the commanders of the respective naval forces at Palermo.†

The President of the Government of the Kingdom of Sicily makes known the above to all the cities and communes of the kingdom for their information and exact observance.

Palermo, October 12, 1848.

The President, &c.

(Signed)

RUGGIERO SETTIMO.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Commerce,

(Signed)

MARCHESE DI TORREARSA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 344.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Captain Robb.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, October 24, 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant by the French steam-vessel "Chacal."

I am sorry to find that there is any misunderstanding and disappointment on the part of General Filangieri with regard to the terms of the armistice said to have been printed and published at Palermo on the 12th instant.

My secretary has communicated with Rear-Admiral Tréhouart, who is now here, respecting the modified conditions and the lines of demarcation as settled at Palermo on the 8th instant by the French Rear-Admiral and Captain Rich of the "Vanguard," and which I understand had been accepted by General Filangieri.

With regard to the Article in the Sicilian printed statement respecting the mode of collecting the imposts on the neutral ground for the sustenance of the Sicilian inhabitants of Messina, it will only be necessary to remark that the Government of Palermo were not aware that their proposal of paying a sum of money in lieu thereof had been accepted when the paper in question was published.

With reference to the 3rd Article, which Captain Rich informed you Captain Nonay was directed to leave out, Admiral Tréhouart acquaints me that as it stipulated "that the Sicilian forces before the renewal of hostilities shall return to the points of neutral ground which they are to abandon by virtue of the pending stipulations," and as the execution of this condition appeared to be hardly possible, the Commanders of the French and British forces before Palermo entertaining that opinion deemed it unnecessary to bring it before General Filangieri.

With regard to the 4th Article, "That hostilities shall not be resumed until after ten days' notice shall have been given to the Sicilian Government by the Commanders of the British and French naval forces at Palermo;" the French Rear-Admiral states that in consequence of the Sicilians having consented to abandon certain excellent posts, Captain Rich and himself had promised that in the event of the Sicilians being left to their own resources, they should receive ten days' notice before the Neapolitans should be allowed to attack them.

The Rear-Admiral observes that it was thought useless to submit this condition to General Filangieri, as he had already been informed that any attack on the Sicilians would be opposed.

The modified conditions which were reciprocally agreed to by General Filangieri and the Sicilians certainly do not contain any article of guarantee by France and England; but the French Rear-Admiral and Captain Rich did verbally promise the Sicilian Government at Palermo, that if the armistice was faithfully observed on their part it would in like manner be enforced on the Neapolitans by the French and English forces, should any departure from its observance be indicated.

Although this was a verbal communication and not intended to be introduced in the agreement it was not the less binding; but as it is presumed that General Filangieri was quite aware that the faithful observance of the armistice was equally required by the Neapolitans and Sicilians, it is hoped that he will understand it was not intended to favour one party more than the other.

I shall be glad to hear that these explanations satisfy the General, who appears to have fulfilled very honourably the terms of the armistice, which I will only add is positively to be maintained until further instructions are received.

You will of course communicate with Captain Nonay before these explanations are offered to General Filangieri.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 344.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Captain Rich.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, October 24, 1848.

BY the accompanying copy of a letter which I have received from Captain Robb, you will see that General Filangieri has expressed surprise and disappointment at the publication by the Sicilian Government of a printed paper purporting to be the "Lines of Demarcation and Conditions of the Armistice established by the Officers Commanding the English and French Naval Forces, and accepted by the Neapolitans and Sicilians respectively;" containing two distinct articles and other observations of which he had not been apprized by Captains Nonay and Robb.

My secretary has therefore had a conference with Rear-Admiral Tréhouart, who has obligingly explained for my information relative to the points complained of by the Neapolitan General, and I herewith transmit to you the copy of a letter which I have addressed to Captain Robb of the "Gladiator," to enable him to state the facts to General Filangieri.

You will be best aware of what passed between Rear-Admiral Tréhouart and yourself with the Sicilian Government on the points in question, but as the matter is now explained it is to be regretted that the Sicilian Government published a statement of the conditions supposed to be agreed on, but of which it seems that General Filangieri was on certain points misinformed; and as the General appears from the concurring testimony of Captains Nonay and Robb, to have faithfully and honourably observed the terms to which he assented, his annoyance at this occurrence is not to be wondered at.

I shall be glad to have a copy of the printed paper which has caused this umbrage to General Filangieri, and desire that you will state to me whether the Sicilian Government were furnished with any written agreement from which the document in question was printed.

It seems to me desirable that whatever the terms may be, the respective parties concerned should be provided with exact copies thereof.

You will of course make the senior French officer at Palermo acquainted with the substance of this communication, to which I have only to add that Her Majesty's Government have directed me to maintain the armistice until further instructions.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 345.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, November 10, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated at Naples the 29th of last month and its inclosures, relative to the lines of demarcation established between the Neapolitans and Sicilians.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure in No. 345.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, October 29, 1848.

MY letters of the 24th September and of the 4th October communicated to their Lordships that lines of demarcation had been established between the Neapolitans and Sicilians by the joint interposition of the French

and English officers, to prevent the risk of collision between the contending parties during the continuance of the conditional armistice.

I now transmit for their Lordships' information the copy of a letter and inclosures* which I have received from Captain Robb of the "Gladiator," by which it appears that the Neapolitan General had expressed dissatisfaction that a paper had been printed and published at Palermo purporting to contain the conditions of the armistice, lines of demarcation, &c., wherein two distinct articles and other statements appeared that had not been imparted to the General.

I therefore deemed it necessary to confer with the French Rear-Admiral Tréhouart on the subject during his recent stay at Naples, and have directed Captain Robb to offer the explanations to General Filangieri contained in my letter numbered 2 in the schedule.

I also send for their Lordships' further information the copy of one which I addressed to Captain Rich of the "Vanguard" on the same subject, hoping that the General will be satisfied that there has been no intention to deceive or mislead him, and that the Sicilian Government may be deterred from incun-
tiously circulating documents which may lead to misapprehension.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 346.

The Marquis of Normanby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 12.)

(Extract.)

Paris, November 11, 1848.

I WENT this morning with Mr. Temple to General Cavaignac by appointment. We discussed the prospects of the Sicilian negotiation, and I was happy to observe a perfect identity between the General's sentiments and the instructions of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 347.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 12.)

(Extract.)

Paris, November 11, 1848.

I HAVE this morning accompanied Lord Normanby to General Cavaignac, who fixed upon 12 o'clock to receive us.

The General expressed a strong desire for the settlement of Sicilian affairs, and entirely concurred in all that had been agreed upon between the two Governments upon the subject.

No. 348.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord,

Admiralty, November 21, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, dated the 14th instant, with its inclosure, relative to the armistice between the Neapolitan and Sicilian forces being impartially enforced, and I am to request that you will lay the same before Viscount Palmerston for his Lordship's information.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

* See Inclosures 2 to 5 in No. 344.

Inclosure 1 in No. 348.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, November 14, 1848.

TO prevent any misapprehension of the existing conditional armistice required between the Neapolitan and the Sicilian forces being impartially enforced, should any infraction of it be attempted on either side, I inclose herewith for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of an order which I have issued to Captains Rich and Robb, the senior officers of Her Majesty's ships at Palermo and Messina, on this subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 348.

Orders issued by Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

(Memo.)

"Hibernia," Naples, November 13, 1848.

AS it is most desirable that the existing armistice between the Neapolitans and Sicilians should not be interrupted pending the mediation which is about to be undertaken by the Envoys of Great Britain and France at the Court of Naples for the adjustment of the differences of the belligerents, and to prevent any misapprehension of the impartial observance of the armistice; you are, with reference to my order of September last, strictly enjoined to enforce the same restrictions on the Sicilians as on the Neapolitans, to prevent any hostile act being committed, and are to consider the instructions which accompanied that order as applicable to both parties, should the contingency upon which they are to be opened be caused by the operations of either.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

To Captain Rich,
H. M. ship "Vanguard," Palermo.
To Captain Robb,
H. M. ship "Gladiator," Messina.

No. 349.

Sir George Hamilton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 24.)

(Extract.)

Florence, November 16, 1848.

THE Tuscan Minister for Foreign Affairs has addressed a letter to M. Gemelli, Agent of the Sicilian Provisional Government, who has been residing for some time at Florence, a copy and translation of which I have now the honour to inclose for your Lordship's perusal. Your Lordship will perceive that the Tuscan Government have authorized M. Gemelli to place the arms of Sicily over the door of his residence.

The Neapolitan Minister at this Court has protested against this proceeding of the Tuscan Government. He thinks it probable that he may be desired in consequence to leave Florence.

Inclosure in No. 349.

*M. Montanelli to the Agent of the Sicilian Provisional Government.**Firenze, 11 Novembre, 1848.*

IL Governo Toscano, avendo di fatto riconosciuto quello di Sicilia, io non ho ragione di oppormi al desiderio ch' ella mi esprimeva nella pregevole sua nota del 10 andante, d'innalzare sulla porta della sua abitazione lo stemma

Siciliano, allo scopo di rendere più facile a' suoi connazionali di rinvenire la Legazione.

Ferma poi rimanendo la questione del riconoscimento di diritto, della quale il Governo Granducale, non immemore dei diritti dell' eroica Sicilia, si occupa caldamente secondo i principii del suo programma politico.

La prego, &c.

(Firmato) G. MONTANELLI.

(Translation.)

Florence, November 11, 1848.

THE Tuscan Government having *de facto* recognised that of Sicily, I have no reason to oppose the desire which you have expressed to me in your esteemed note of the 10th instant of raising the Sicilian arms over the door of your residence, with the view of rendering it easier for your countrymen to find the Legation.

The question of the recognition *de jure* remaining stationary, with which the Grand Ducal Government, not being unmindful of the rights of heroic Sicily, still occupies itself in pursuance of the principles announced by their political programme.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) G. MONTANELLI.

No. 350.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 28.)

(Extract.)

Naples, November 12, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the last reports transmitted to me by Mr. Goodwin, illustrative of the state of parties in Sicily. Her Majesty's ship "Bellerophon" which arrived to-day from England calling off Palermo, reports all quiet in that city.

It is announced that General Garibaldi has declared his intention to transport himself with some of his followers to Sicily.

Inclosure 1 in No. 350.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, October 16, 1848.

THE Sicilian Government has earned a new title to the support and confidence of the people, by the abolition of the Multure, or tax on the grinding of corn, which has just been decreed by Parliament at the instance of the Minister of Finance. Some account of this tax, the heaviness of which was a main cause of the revolution may perhaps be interesting.

The Multure or tax on the grinding of wheat, barley, and Indian corn, which had been collected by wealthy peasants from time immemorial, was assigned in 1842 to a company of "publicans" or revenue farmers. The tax which had hitherto been levied on the net weight of the corn was thenceforth to be levied on the gross, that is to say on the weight of the corn and sack together. The peasant who had corn to grind was to appear before the village collector, to declare the gross weight of the sack, to pay the duty thereon at about 4s. 6d. a quarter, and to take a receipt for such payment in duplicate. He was then allowed fifteen days to carry his corn to the mill and present his receipts to the weighmaster whose certificate was necessary for the grinding. If the quantity verified exceeded the quantity declared by above 30 per cent., the corn was to be confiscated and the peasant fined fifteen ducats, but if it fell short, the receipt stood good, and no return of duty was made to the owner. The grinding over, one of the two receipts was kept by the miller and the other was given to the peasant who was required to get it *visé*d by the weighmaster with *visto uscire* before he departed, on the pain of the flour being confiscated in

case of search on the road. The peasant was to carry the receipt to his own home, and show it to the village-collector, on pain of losing the flour, together with his horse or mule and of being fined fifteen ducats for neglect of exhibition.

These severe regulations were much aggravated by further instructions. Whensoever the overweight exceeded nine pounds *avoirdupois* and fell short of 30 per cent., such overweight was to be paid for, not at the mill as at first, but at the village collectorate; an order which obliged the incautious peasant to go home for a fresh receipt, however far off his dwelling, on account of a slight excess. It was afterwards directed that no one should come in or go out of the mill before sunrise or after sunset, so that the evening customer who was waiting for his flour in still or dry weather, had to pass the night in close confinement.

The plan was carried fully into practice, and the practice tallied with the principle. Searching of houses, breaking open of barns, closing of mills, limitation of bakers shops, arrests of peasants, seizures of horses and mules and of carts and panniers, heavy fines for oversights, close imprisonment, local exile and transportation beyond the seas for various offences, without form of trial but by act of police, became the order of the day in the interior of Sicily.

One of the first acts of the Sicilian Parliament was to reduce the rate of *Multure* one half, a measure which had it been accompanied by a change in the method of collection might have proved beneficial to the Treasury whilst it alleviated the condition of the peasant. Without it the reform missed its aim. It relieved the taxpayer, but it impoverished the exchequer. The produce of the tax for the months of May, June, and July was only 12,000*l.* the expense of collection was 15,000*l.* Left to choose between incurring a dead loss, and abolishing an obnoxious tax, the Minister took the latter course with the joyful concurrence of Parliament. The *Multure* has therefore ceased to exist.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 350.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, October 24, 1848.

THE Revolution of Vienna, the news of which reached Palermo on the 19th instant, produced a strong excitement in the legislative body. Certain Peers whom I met the next morning were preparing to move that a definitive answer be demanded of the Duke of Genoa, as to his acceptance or refusal of the Crown within eight days, through the Sicilian Commissioners at Turin, who were to demand their passports in case of delay or evasion on the part of the Duke. Sensible how much the demand might embarrass, I opposed it strongly, and succeeded so far as to induce the Peers to defer their motion until the 25th at any rate, when advices from the Commissioners would be due in Palermo, the tenor of which might serve for their better guidance.

In the Chamber of Commons, Interdonato, a deputy for Messina, who had previously announced his intention to interrogate the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and War, carried out his purpose as respected the former, on the 21st, in the presence of a crowded and tumultuous gallery.

The speaker began by asking the Marchese Torrecarsa whether he would communicate to the Chamber the original correspondence with the Commissioners at Turin, and also the correspondence which preceded and followed the Neapolitan expeditions to Messina. The Marchese replied that he had nothing to add to his former communications. The speaker then proceeded to censure the armistice and mediation of Upper Italy, as tending to lull the people to sleep and to reduce them once more to subjection, and described the late revolution at Vienna and the alleged fraternization of the Hungarians with the Milanese as the work of a particular Providence on behalf of the Italians. The Marchese Torrecarsa in reply defended the armistice and mediation in Upper Italy, as sure means of rescuing the peninsula impending thralldom. "What," he asked, "would the honourable Deputy wish the Government to do? Would he have them revoke the Decree of the 10th of July last? That would be an act of the highest imprudence. In brief, if the Duke of

"Genoa accepted the Crown in the present state of things, such acceptance would be joyfully received. If however affairs underwent a change and the acceptance should still be delayed, the Sicilian Parliament would feel itself at liberty to revoke the Decree of the 10th of July and take such steps as it should deem advisable."

The reply of the Marchese Torrearsa satisfied the Chamber so fully that Interdonato thought it prudent to defer his interrogatory of the Minister of War to a future occasion.

No. 351.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 28.)

My Lord,

Naples, November 14, 1848.

IT has been frequently reported in the Government newspapers and circulated by the Absolutist party, that after the capture of Messina the population of Catania and Syracuse manifested their desire to return to their former allegiance and actually dispatched a deputation to offer their submission to General Filangieri.

The object of this statement was to place the humane intervention of the Naval Commanders in an odious light, as if by an officious interference they had prevented the flow of returning loyalty and reduced the well-disposed majority to submit anew to the despotism of a factious and revolutionary few.

From similar sources an opinion has obtained great currency that the general state of Sicily is deplorable, that society is disorganized, the law wholly neglected, industry abandoned, and the country covered with bands of robbers.

With the view of elucidating such statements I have thought it right to address the accompanying instruction to Mr. Jeans, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Catania, desiring categorical information in reply to several inquiries therein contained. Mr. Jeans is at present in this capital and he has transmitted to me the report inclosed herewith, which merits particular consideration from the character and position of its author.

That gentleman is more than commonly esteemed for his candour and intelligence, his extensive connexions in Sicily render him particularly capable of offering a just appreciation of its condition, and his judgment is the less likely to be biassed, as Catania has not been the theatre either of military operations or much political excitement, and Mr. Jeans himself has not been mixed up in these quarrels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 351.

Lord Napier to Vice-Consul Jeans.

Sir,

Naples, November 6, 1848.

HAVING seen it repeatedly stated in the Neapolitan journals that at the moment of the capture of Messina the cities of Catania and Syracuse were disposed to surrender to the Neapolitan forces, I think it right to request some information from you on that subject.

You will oblige me by stating whether to your knowledge any deputation was charged to proceed from those towns to General Filangieri for the purpose negotiating or offering their submission.

Her Majesty's Government will doubtless be glad to learn from you what are the general dispositions of the people in the provinces with which you are acquainted and what is their social condition in consequence of the late hostilities. You will be enabled to state whether there be a cessation of rural labour and industrious pursuits, and whether there has been a revival of highway robbery and a reappearance of those bands of brigands from which the southern part of Neapolitan dominions have in former times often suffered, and which might

naturally spring up from the continuation of political commotions and the destruction of the former system of Government.

Finally I have to call your attention to the harvest and the prospect of British trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 351.

Vice-Consul Jeans to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Naples, November 8, 1848.

IN answer to your Lordship's letter of the 6th instant inquiring whether at the moment of the capture of Messina, the cities of Catania and Syracuse were disposed to surrender to the Neapolitan forces, and whether any deputation from those places was charged to proceed to General Filangieri for the purpose of offering, or negotiating their submission, I have the honour to inform you that, as regards Catania no idea of surrender, of offering, or negotiating their submission, was entertained by the Catanese; this I can confidently assert, having been in Catania at the time. On the contrary, although when the fate of Messina was known in Catania, doubts may have been entertained by some, how far resistance might be successful if a bombardment were resorted to by the Neapolitan forces as at Messina, the feeling to resist was unanimous; and I have every reason to believe that such was also the feeling at Syracuse.

The general disposition of the people, as far as I have been able to learn, is a determined opposition to Neapolitan rule, and even if the King of Naples should by force of arms reconquer Sicily, my opinion is that his tenure of it would be insecure.

As for the social condition of the inhabitants of the Province of Catania with which I am now particularly acquainted, I can bear ample testimony to its rapid recovery from the effects of the late disturbances. For some time after the outbreak of the Revolution in January, when every one in Sicily capable of doing so, took arms in defence of his country's liberty and what he considered his country's rights, a general disorganization of society was the natural consequence; but now that the irregular armed corps have been disbanded, that the National and Municipal Guards are everywhere enrolled for the internal police, and regular troops have been formed for external defence, those armed in the first moments have returned to their peaceful occupations only to resume arms against hostile aggressions. The tribunals have been reopened, judges appointed, and petty cases are regularly tried and adjudicated, though probably parties would hardly choose the present moment for bringing on lawsuits of consequence.

The communication with the interior, which was for a short period interrupted, is now completely re-established, and the produce of the neighbouring country is regularly and safely brought into the stores and warehouses of Catania.

The same is I believe the case in the Provinces of Girgenti, Syracuse, and Caltanissetta. At any rate, although in continual correspondence with persons in those provinces, I have not heard of any outrages of a more serious character than used formerly to happen.

The cessation from rural labour was of but short duration, the inhabitants of the country parts not being under the same necessity of performing military duty as was the case with those who carried on industrious pursuits in the towns and cities on the sea coast.

The crops of every kind this season were abundant in quantity and good in quality, a sufficient proof that husbandry and agricultural pursuits were at no time so much neglected as to interfere with the prospects of the harvest. I cannot probably better illustrate the condition of the lower classes in Catania and Naples than by stating that in the former city the price of wheat for consumption is oz. 3.20 per salm, equal to about 34s. sterling per imperial quarter; in the latter dts. 5.60 per cantar, equal to 48s. sterling per imperial quarter; bread in Catania costs equal to 5 grains Neapolitan per rotolo, about 1d. per pound English; in Naples of similar quality, 7 grains per rotolo, or within a

fraction of 1½d. per pound English. Other articles consumed by the lower classes bear the same proportion.

In the city and province of Catania order is well maintained, owing to the vigilance of the municipal guards and the mounted police or corps of the "Capitan d'Armi." Property is generally respected, and strange though it may appear, there have been fewer outrages against property and individuals in the city and its vicinity since the Revolution than during any corresponding period in preceding years. The only complaint that I have heard is that landed proprietors have in some parts of the interior found it difficult to obtain their rents, and that the arm of the law is not strong enough to enforce payment, a grievance however by no means peculiar to Sicily.

It is only in the Province of Palermo and more particularly in the immediate neighbourhood of that city, that a regular system of brigandage and highway robbery seems to have been organized. This however is no new fact; the vicinity of Palermo was always notorious for it. Before the Revolution the system of brigandage had there arrived to such a pitch that a Neapolitan General was sent to Palermo with plenary powers to suppress it; and now that all the Sicilian convicts liberated from the insular and continental prisons have found their way to Palermo it is scarcely a wonder that occasional excesses have been committed.

I see no reason to believe that British trade will be less under the new than it was under the old state of things. In Catania I am of opinion that the Trade Returns for 1848 will show a considerable increase of British commerce over preceding years. As regards the island generally, when once a good and sound Government be established in Sicily which will develop its numerous resources and improve its social and moral condition, a great increase of commerce with Great Britain may reasonably be expected.

I can only conclude by stating that British subjects have during the whole period of the Revolution been treated with the greatest respect, and that every communication affecting British interests which I have had occasion to make to the Sicilian authorities has received immediate attention. As however the case of the disturbances against the Duchy of Bronte, owned by British subjects, may be brought forward in contradiction to my assertion, I may state that the opposition is to the legal source of certain lands held by the duchy and not against the owner or his representatives, British subjects; and that it had its origin in events which happened previously to the outbreak of the Revolution. Order has however been restored there, and the legal question referred to the competent tribunals.

I trust that I have fully answered the inquiries contained in your Lordship's letter, and shall be happy to obtain any further information on the state of Sicily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT JEANS.

No. 352.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 28.)

My Lord,

Naples, November 14, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of an instruction which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, in anticipation of the arrival of Her Majesty's Envoy.

I have directed Mr. Goodwin to communicate confidentially to the President Ruggiero Settimo and M. Torreaarsa the terms agreed upon by the Governments of Great Britain and France as the basis of a settlement of the Sicilian affairs. M. de Rayneval has given similar orders to the Consul of the French Republic. I have not been able to impart your Lordship's wishes personally to any of the leading Sicilians, for there are no longer any persons possessing influence in that country residing at Naples.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 352.

Lord Napier to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Naples, November 12, 1848.

I HAVE to acquaint you that Mr. Temple is shortly expected at Naples, and he will bring with him instructions for a joint negotiation in conjunction with the French Envoy to effect a settlement of the affairs of Sicily.

The Governments of England and France are entirely agreed in regard to the basis to be recommended, viz. :—The King shall retain on his own head the Crown of Sicily ; but the Sicilians shall have their own Parliament, a National Administration, and a Sicilian army.

No Neapolitan troops are to be allowed in the island, and the Viceroy is to be chosen from the Royal Family, or be is to be a Sicilian subject.

Such are the terms sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government after a mature review of the interests and pretensions of all parties concerned and of the general state of Europe.

It is not my business to enlarge upon the different arguments which recommend the adoption of these proposals to the Governments of Sicily and Naples. It will be for Her Majesty's Envoy to bring them formally under the notice of both. But Viscount Palmerston is anxious that an early intimation be made to the leading Sicilians of the course about to be pursued, and in anticipation of a formal communication I should wish you to call upon the President Ruggiero Settimo and acquaint him verbally and confidentially, in the presence of Marquis Torreausa, with the resolutions of the combined Cabinets, in order that their Excellencies may consult their supporters and be prepared to enter upon the approaching discussion with becoming deliberation.

You will do well on your own part to observe the strictest discretion in performing this duty, lest the proposed terms be prematurely divulged in such a way as to embarrass the Sicilian Government.

The Consul of France will receive from M. de Rayneval a similar instruction to this. You can communicate with him privately on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 353.

Sir George Hamilton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 3.)

(Extract.)

Florence, November 23, 1848.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th instant I have to inform your Lordship that as soon as the Neapolitan Government was informed of the permission given by the Tuscan Government to the Sicilian Delegate here to place the Sicilian arms over the door of his house, and of the letter which had been addressed to that gentleman by the Tuscan Minister for Foreign Affairs, orders were transmitted to Count Grifeo, the Neapolitan Minister at this Court, immediately to demand his passports unless within twenty-four hours the Sicilian arms were removed, and a letter written to the Neapolitan Minister and published in the Gazette disclaiming all intention on the part of the Tuscan Government to recognise the independence of Sicily *de jure*. As might have been foreseen, the Tuscan Ministry refused to retrace their steps in this business, and passports were immediately sent to Count Grifeo.

No. 354.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Eddisbury.

My Lord,

Admiralty, December 4, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, dated the 22nd ultimo, relative to the infractions of the armistice between the Neapolitans and Sicilians.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 354.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, November 22, 1848.

I REQUEST you will inform the Lords of the Admiralty that on the 18th instant I received detailed representations from Captain Robb of the "Gladiator" at Messina, communicating complaints made by the Neapolitan General Filangieri, in command at that place, of infractions by the Sicilians of the conditions of the armistice and lines of demarcation lately agreed to by the Neapolitans and Sicilians, in consequence of which Commander Vansittart of the "Frolic," Captain Le Gras, a French officer of equal rank, belonging to "L'Hercule," and M. Giovanetti, enseigne de vaisseau of the latter ship, proceeded as a commission to investigate these complaints, as also counter ones on the part of the Sicilians. I have now the satisfaction of transmitting a copy of Captain Robb's letter of the 20th instant, reporting that the statements proved to be without foundation and that everything had remained quiet. I also inclose the copy of a joint letter from the Captains Nonay and Robb to General Filangieri, imparting the result of the inquiry by the commission.

The representations of the complaints in Captain Robb's former letters, and procès-verbal which was made by the commission, are so voluminous that I do not forward the details, believing that their Lordships will be satisfied with a knowledge of the result, and that the documents are forthcoming whenever they may be called for.

It will be seen by Captain Robb's letter, that the Neapolitan force assembled in Sicily amounts to 17,000 men, besides two frigates and a steam-vessel at Milazzo and four steam-vessels at Messina, and that their Commander-in-chief has evinced some symptoms of a desire to resume active measures, but I hope we shall be able to prevent this without using force.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 354.

*Captain Robb to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.**"Gladiator," Messina, November 20, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that everything remains quiet here.

On the 17th instant the French ships "Jupiter" and "Psyche" arrived here from the Adriatic, and the latter sailed this morning for Naples.

On the same evening (17th) Commanders Vansittart and Le Gras returned from the commission of inquiry on which they had been sent, and I beg to forward a copy and translation of the procès-verbal which they made on the spot, and which Captain Nonay and myself sent to General Filangieri with a letter, a translated copy inclosed.

By this it will be seen that the reports made to General Filangieri are unfounded or exaggerated, and we thought it necessary to impress this on the General, as it is the second time that we have had to send officers to inquire into circumstances complained of by him which were found to be untrue.

The Provost of the Neapolitan army having accompanied the two Commanders on their inquiry and borne testimony to the accuracy of their statements, must be an additional proof of the impartiality and correctness with which these reports have been made.

On the other side the Sicilian Government at Palermo having forwarded the complaints of which I sent you copies in my last, the commission met M. Piraino, the Commissary of the Executive Power, who had assured them that he had no complaint whatever to make as to the Neapolitan advanced posts or on any other subject.

It is much to be regretted that the excited feeling of the two parties should so far create complaints which have no existence, and cause the mediating Powers so much trouble and solicitude about trifles most unsubstantial.

A French packet arrived from Malta yesterday, having remained in pratique at that place, and the postal communication is to be stopped between Naples and that place in consequence of the quaran ine.

A Neapoitan steamer arrived with troops on the 18th, and I have endeavoured to ascertain as nearly as possible the actual force of the Neapolitans in Sicily, as from something contained in General Filangieri's letter of the 14th instant, which I transmitted to you on the 16th instant, I am apprehensive that he meant to proceed to active measures, and it was necessary to reply to it with firmness.

The number of troops at Milazzo are stated to be 2,500, at Scaletta 2,500, at various posts 2,500, and at Messina and vicinity, 10,000; total, 17,000.

The "Panama" has just arrived from Naples, and proceeds immediately to Alexandria.

Captain Nonay will keep the French ship "Jupiter" here for a few days for the purpose of augmenting the French forces in the event of a rupture by the Neapolitans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ROBB.

Inclosure 3 in No. 354.

Captains Robb and Nonay to General Filangieri.

M. le Général,

Messina, November 19, 1848.

WE have the honour to address you the procès-verbal of the commission of inquiry which we dispatched to Barcelona and Castro Reale in order to ascertain and prove the facts contained in the letter which your Excellency did us the honour to address us on the 14th instant. We are also going to send this procès-verbal to our Admirals-in-chief and shall await their orders. Nevertheless we regret that the agents who address you these accounts of the advanced posts, offer exaggerated facts and transmit them to your Excellency without surc proofs.

We have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ROBB.
NONAY.

No. 355.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 5.)

(Extract.)

Naples, November 24, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo descriptive of the temper in which the Sicilian Ministers have received the confidential communication of the terms proposed by the mediating Powers.

From other sources I am informed that something of the general tenour of those terms has been disclosed, and that an universal agitation has been aroused, combined with a lively resolution to reject all conditions which involve a restoration of the even nominal authority of King Ferdinand.

The Government dare not even confess to have obtained intimation of the basis sanctioned by Great Britain and France, and they are so weak that they have left a barbarous murder unpunished which was perpetrated in broad daylight on an unoffending person formerly in the police service of Naples.

The assassination of Count Rossi, the triumph of the Radical party at Rome, and the recognition of Sicilian independence by Tuscany, were not at that date known at Palermo.

Inclosure 1 in No. 355.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, November 16, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of 12th November directing me to call on the President and acquaint him verbally and confidentially, in the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with the resolutions of the combined Cabinets.

Your Lordship's directions have been promptly and carefully followed.

Favoured by Don Ruggiero Settimo with an audience at his private house, I requested his Excellency respectfully to send for the Marchese di Torrearsa, in whose presence I was charged by your Lordship to deliver an important message. The request was granted, but the Marchese was not to be found, and after waiting some time I proceeded to discharge my duty. The President received the message with dignity mingled with concern, and observed that it would be difficult to reconcile the Sicilians to the union of the two Crowns in the same Royal person. He also pointed out the omission of a Sicilian diplomacy in the list of guarantees, as a serious objection. These were the only observations he made on the project.

The Marchese di Torrearsa, on whom I called the next day, concurred with the President in regarding the reunion of the Crowns as extremely difficult, and seemed to consider a national Parliament, Administration, and Army, as insufficient guarantees for public welfare and happiness.

Both the President and the Minister understood that the intimation was confidential.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 355.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, November 23, 1848.

BEARING in mind your Lordship's injunction to observe the strictest discretion in performing my duty, I have not communicated the ultimatum to anybody besides Don Ruggiero Settimo and the Marchese di Torrearsa; I am therefore at a loss to form a decided opinion as to the reception it would meet with from the Parliament and the people. But I am inclined to think that it would be rejected instantaneously, and followed by an outbreak, unless the public mind were prepared beforehand. The hatred to the King's person is even more intense than the desire of independence. It is in short the animating spirit of all political parties. Could any of the King's sons be substituted the difficulty might be adjusted; with the King himself the obstacle is most serious.

I would recommend that I should be authorized to make the matter known among the leading members of both Chambers. In the present state of things it is possible that the Parliament might be brought to yield to necessity.

No. 356.

Sir George Hamilton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 6.)

My Lord,

Florence, November 27, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a note addressed to me by M. Montanelli, informing me that all official communication has been broken off between this Government and that of Naples, and stating the causes which have led to this rupture.

In my despatch of the 23rd instant I have already informed your Lordship that the Neapolitan Minister had received positive orders to demand his passports

unless the Sicilian arms were removed from the residence of the Sicilian Agent here.

譯文 In answer to M. Montanelli I have only assured him that his communication would be transmitted to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE B. HAMILTON.

Inclosure in No. 356.

M. Montanelli to Sir George Hamilton.

Florence, November 27, 1848.

LE Soussigné, Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Son Altesse Royale le Grand Duc de Toscane, s'empresse d'informer Sir George Hamilton, Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, que le Gouvernement Toscan vient d'interrompre toute communication officielle avec celui de Naples.

Le motif de cette interruption est généralement connu ; les déclarations officielles insérées au "Moniteur Toscan," à la suite desquelles la porte de l'habitation du Commissaire de Sicile avait été surmontée des armes Siciliennes, contribuèrent à augmenter davantage les griefs du Gouvernement Napolitain contre la Sicile.

C'est alors que M. le Comte Grifeo des Princes de Partanna, Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Naples, communiqua au Gouvernement du Grand Duc une note par laquelle il exigeait la retractation formelle des déclarations sus-énoncées et l'abaissement des armes Siciliennes. Il concluait que si dans le délai de vingt-quatre heures tout cela n'eût eu lieu, il aurait cessé tout rapport officiel avec le Gouvernement Toscan.

La conduite à tenir dans un pareil cas par le Gouvernement Toscan ne pouvait former l'objet d'aucun doute, d'aucune hésitation. Le Gouvernement Toscan devait suivre la voie qui lui était tracée par le conseil de la raison naturelle qui soutient les droits de l'héroïque Sicile ; par le conseil du Parlement Toscan, qui proférait un vœu solennel pour que l'Etat de Sicile fût reconnu de fait ; enfin par le devoir que lui imposaient ses propres principes exprimés dans le programme du Ministère actuelle.

Aussi la Toscane a-t-elle été la première à donner un exemple qui devrait encourager les autres Gouvernemens d'Italie à entrer loyalement dans une voie directe, et à ne point négliger les droits et les intérêts de cette île infortunée qu'une mauvaise administration vient de réduire à l'état déplorable où elle se trouve actuellement.

Le Soussigné prie Sir George Hamilton, Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, de porter à la connaissance de son Gouvernement la rectitude de la conduite suivie par celui du Grand Duc, qui, en reconnaissant de fait la Sicile, a eu en vue d'établir un principe qui peut apporter à ce pays des avantages considérables.

Le Soussigné, &c. (Signed) G. MONTANELLI.

(Translation.)

Florence, November 27, 1848.

THE Undersigned, President of the Council, Minister of Foreign Affairs to His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Tuscany, hastens to inform Sir George Hamilton, Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Britannic Majesty, that the Tuscan Government has just interrupted all official communication with that of Naples.

The motive of this interruption is generally known. The official declarations inserted in the "Moniteur Toscan," as a consequence of which the door of the residence of the Commissary of Sicily had been surmounted by the Sicilian arms, contributed further to increase the causes of complaint of the Neapolitan Government against Sicily.

Then it was that M. le Comte Grifeo des Princes de Partanna, Minister Plenipotentiary of Naples, communicated to the Government of the Grand

Duke a note in which he required the formal retraction of the above-mentioned declarations, and the lowering of the Sicilian arms. He concluded, that if within the space of four-and-twenty hours all this should not have taken place, he should cease all official intercourse with the Tuscan Government.

The conduct to be observed in such a case by the Tuscan Government could not be a matter of any doubt, of any hesitation. The Tuscan Government had to follow the way traced out for it by the counsel of natural reason which sustains the rights of heroic Sicily; by the advice of the Tuscan Parliament which expressed a solemn desire that the State of Sicily might be recognized *de facto*; lastly, by the duty which its own principles, announced in the programme of the present Ministry, imposed upon it.

Thus was Tuscany the first to give an example which should encourage the other Governments of Italy to enter frankly on a direct course, and not to neglect the rights and the interests of that unfortunate island, which an evil administration has reduced to the deplorable state in which it is now placed.

The Undersigned begs Sir George Hamilton, Plenipotentiary of Her Britannic Majesty, to bring to the knowledge of his Government the rectitude of the conduct pursued by that of the Grand Duke, which, in recognizing Sicily *de facto*, has had in view to establish a principle which may bring to that country considerable advantages.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

G. MONTANELLI.

No. 357.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 6.)

My Lord,

Naples, November 26, 1848.

WITH reference to my previous despatch to your Lordship, relative to the disposition in which the Sicilian Government have received a private communication of the conditions proposed by the mediating Powers, I have the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith copy of an instruction which I have forwarded to Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 357.

Lord Napier to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Naples, November 25, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the 16th, 21st, and 23rd instant, descriptive of the condition of Sicily under its present Government and of the temper in which the communication of the terms of the approaching mediation have been received by the Sicilian Ministers.

Mr. Temple is at Rome and may be expected here in the course of to-morrow or next day.

Under these circumstances I do not think it at all desirable that any ostensible step should be taken in the communication of the proposed basis either to the Parliament or the people. It will be better to await the production of Mr. Temple's official instructions, which may be imparted to the Chamber and the people with due precaution.

Should you however observe in the minds of influential persons in whom you can repose confidence, a misapprehension of the nature of the conditions sanctioned by the mediating Powers, and an impression that they are to prove less favourable to Sicily than is actually the case, you are at liberty at your discretion to remove their erroneous views, and explain to them confidentially the character of the conditions which the Governments of Great Britain and France have concerted for the advantage of that country.

I trust that by a judicious temporizing the Ministers may be enabled to stave off any violent demonstration on the part of the populace which might be

roused by the premature and discoloured disclosure of this matter, or by intelligence of the triumphs of the Radical party at Rome, and that the negotiation will be yet entered upon with the estimable statesmen who are still at the head of the Sicilian Government.

The Neapolitan Chambers have been prorogued until the 1st of February.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 358.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 6.)

My Lord,

Naples, November 26, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo descriptive of the condition of Sicily under its present Government and of the encouraging state and prospects of British Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 358.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, November 21, 1848.

AT a moment when Sicily occupies public attention, some account of that country may not be uninteresting. I proceed therefore to lay before your Excellency a short description of its present state, founded on personal observation and private inquiry.

The condition of the people is as good as can be expected at the close of a stormy and eventful revolution. A fair day's wages can be had for a fair day's work, and the necessities of life can be procured at a reasonable price. This great blessing is due to a bountiful Providence which has vouchsafed an abundant harvest, a choice vintage and a rich crop of olives, to an industrious people, whose rulers have given employment to labour in sundry ways, among which the construction of carriage-roads stands foremost. Something may perhaps be attributed to British Trade, which has been brisker during the present year than during the last, the number and tonnage of British vessels at Palermo, between the 1st January and the 31st October, 1848, were greater than the amount of the same during the like period of 1847 by about one-fourth, and the value of imports was likewise greater during the above ten months of 1848 than it was during the same period of 1847 by about two-fifths.

Years.	From 1st January to 31st October.	Ships.	Tons.	Value of Imports in £.
1847	As above	100	12,904	£ 67,630
1848	As above	122	15,660	94,470
	Difference in favour of year 1848	22	2,756	26,840

Public order is better preserved in the capital and the chief towns than in the open country, where cattle stealing and other crimes prevail to a great extent. The restoration of the companies at arms has not yet answered its purpose: some of the captains and most of their followers in the western parts are strongly suspected of conniving at rustic depredation.

The Provisional Government enjoys confidence and esteem. The long experience of Torreaarsa as Director of the Customs at Palermo, and that of Vito d'Ondes Reggio as Royal Commissioner in Apulia, qualify them thoroughly for being Ministers of Foreign Commerce and Public Works. Cordova has signalized his financial abilities by an ingenious project for a National Bank and a Great Book of Sicily which is under consideration in Parliament. Parliament is still sitting daily. Its attention has of late been devoted to local matters rather than to general policy, the National Guard regulation and the Electoral Law excepted, both of which have been fully and ably discussed.

The strength of the army in Palermo is much about the same that it was in May last, when it was declared to be 4,500. It consists of two battalions of the line amounting to 1500, two of veterans also amounting to 1500, one of marines 500, one of artillery 400, one of engineers 300, and one of cavalry 450, making in all 4,650. All these troops are well armed, and most of them are well clothed. Only one-third of the cavalry is mounted. The strength of the army on the eastern, southern, and western coasts is about 7000, making in all Sicily, 11,500 regulars.

The National Guard of Palermo, which serves gratuitously, consists of ten battalions of about 1000 each, including officers and the band; and the Civic Guard, each of whom receives a shilling a-day, consists of a single battalion of about 600. These two corps do the whole of the town duty.

Public instruction has engaged the attention of Vito d'Ondes Reggio, late Minister for that department. Secondary education, formerly monopolised by the Jesuits, has since the expulsion of that order been committed to the clergy and laity, some of whom have opened a national lyceum for the instruction of youth in the classics and mathematics as well as in moral and natural philosophy, which, already frequented by 400 scholars, bids fair to be an excellent public school.

No. 359.

Lord Napier to Viscount Palmerston — (Received December 6.)

My Lord,

Naples, November 27, 1848.

IN conformity with the orders conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 18th ultimo, I have addressed the accompanying instruction to Her Majesty's Consul at Messina, desiring to have a detailed account of the barbarities practised on either side during the late contest and an estimate of all the losses inflicted by the war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 359.

Lord Napier to Consul Barker.

(Extract.)

Naples, November 13, 1848.

I HAVE been instructed to forward to Viscount Palmerston a detailed account of the barbarities committed on either side during the late siege and capture of Messina, and of the extent of devastation caused on houses and property by the bombardment and cannonade and by the troops.

No. 360.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Naples, November 30, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I arrived at Naples on the evening of the 27th instant. On the following day I called upon Prince Cariati to request him to announce my arrival to the King of Naples and to ask at what time I might have the honour of being admitted to an audience by His Majesty.

Prince Cariati informed me that the King was then at Gaeta on a visit to the Pope, but that he would take His Majesty's orders as soon as he returned to Naples where he is expected to arrive this evening.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

No. 361.

Prince Castelfidardo to Viscount Palmerston.

Londro, 30 Dicembre, 1848.

IL Sottoscritto, Inviato Straordinario e Ministro Plenipotenziario di Sua Maestà il Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie presso Sua Maestà Britannica, ha l'onore di richiamare l'attenzione di sua Eccellenza il Visconte Palmerston, Principal Segretario di Stato al Dipartimento degli Affari Esteri, su quel che segue.

Il sedicente Governo di Palermo ha acquistato dalla Compagnia della Navigazione Orientale a vapore due fregate a vapore le quali trovansi presentemente in istato di quasi completo armamento, l'una col nome di "Bombay," ne' bacini di Blackwall, l'altra col nome di "Vectis," ne' bacini di Liverpool. "Bombay" e "Vectis" erano almeno in omi che le due fregate avevano allorchè venner primamente costruite.

Il "Bombay" è approssimativamente della forza di 450 cavalli, di 1200 tonnellate, e può essere armato con sette cannoni.

Il "Vectis" è stato costruito a Cowes, Isola di Wight, ed ha ricevuto le macchine a Liverpool, è per esso della forza di 450 cavalli e della capacità di 1300 tonnellate.

E informato il Sottoscritto che i due legni sieno stati comperati da Commessari di Palermo, i quali avrebber già pagato alla Compagnia della Navigazione Orientale 20,000L. con condizione che la Compagnia completerà l'armamento, recherà i due legni a Palermo con bandiera ed equipaggio Inglese, ne farà colà la consegna, e riceverà allora il rimanente del prezzo.

L'armamento sta ora progredendo con rapidità; è noto ne' bacini di Blackwall e Liverpool che i due legni son destinati pe' rivoltosi di Sicilia; due Siciliani, per nome Giuseppe Diliberto e Salvatore d'Amico, han da più mesi sorvegliato e sorvegliano la disposizione delle macchine e quanto altro riguarda il completamento de' lavori; e finalmente, un ufficiale della Real Marina Britannica, denominato Mudy, avrebbe (se le informazioni del Sottoscritto non sono erronee) diretto privatamente molte opere, e dovrebbe pur prendere il comando del "Bombay."

Sua Eccellenza il Visconte Palmerston ha conoscenza e copia delle note passate tra l'Incaricato d'Affari Britannico a Napoli ed il Principe di Cariati intorno all'uso fatto dal piroscalo Napoletano "Stromboli" della bandiera Inglese per predare due legni carichi de' Siciliani che fuggirono dalle Calabrie, dopo di avervi eccitato la rivolta. E son pure a conoscenza di Lord Palmerston i modi (è penoso pel Sottoscritto di rammentarlo) altieri ed inusitati co' quali Lord Napier e l'Ammiraglio Parker chiesero che i colori Britannici non fossero più adoperati da' bastimenti della marina di Sua Maestà Siciliana ne' casi analoghi.

Sarebbe stato facile addurre argomenti, opinioni di cbiali pubblicisti, ed

esempi somministrati dalle squadre Inglesi medesime nelle ultime guerre marittime, in sostegno dell' operato dal Comandante lo "Stromboli." Ma il Gabinetto delle Due Sicilie, sempre intento a mostrare la sua deferenza per quello della Gran Bretagna, dichiarava con nota del 3 Luglio scorso, che per secondare le brame del Vice-Ammiraglio Parker, erasi disposto che le navi della Real Marina non avessero d' ora innanzi a far uso de' colori Inglesi in simili circostanze. Domandò però, per giusto dritto di reciprocanza, che lo stesso si esigesse da' Siciliani i quali in più occasioni avevano adoperato la bandiera Inglese per sfuggire alle crociere della Real Marina.

Con nota de' 26 Luglio infatti Lord Napier assicurò che da lungo tempo era stato da Rappresentanti ed Agenti Inglesi inibito a' legni Siciliani di veleggiare sotto la insegna Britannica, e che andava sul proposito a rinnovare le sue istruzioni al Console d' Inghilterra in Palermo.

Dopo tali positive assicurazioni il Sottoscritto è certo che Lord Palmerston non vorrà mai concedere che le due fregate si rechino in Sicilia con bandiera e ciurma Inglese. Se un tal fatto, contra ogni dritto ed ogni probabilità, si avverasse, rimarrebbe libero senza dubbio il Governo delle Due Sicilie da ogni precedente impegno, unicamente contratto per deferenza verso l' Inghilterra, nè potrebbero i Rappresentanti Britannici rimproverargli mai l' uso di qualsiviasa mezzo, onde impedire l' esecuzione di un tal progetto, perchè non farebbe esso che imitare ciò che da' suoi avversari e con grave suo danno verrebbe praticato con il pieno consenso del Governo Inglese.

Oltre a ciò il Sottoscritto ricorda pure a Lord Palmerston, che allorchando il General Flores preparò nel 1846 una spedizione contra uno degli Stati dell' America Meridionale, il Governo Inglese impedì la di lui partenza, e sciolse la spedizione, invocando le patrie leggi, le quali non permettono che con mezzi somministrati e riuniti sul territorio Britannico, si tenti muover guerra ad uno Stato col quale l' Inghilterra è in relazioni di amicizia.

Le leggi Britanniche dunque, gl' impegni assunti, gli esempi preesistenti, le relazioni di amicizia fra le due Corti, e ciò che è meglio, lo spirito di giustizia ch' è norma alle operazioni del Gabinetto Inglese son pel Sottoscritto garanzie ben valide perchè egli da parte del suo Governo domandi a Lord Palmerston con fiducia di esser favorevolmente ascoltato, che non solamente s'impedisca alle due sopraaccennate fregate a vapore di recarsi in Sicilia sotto color ed equipaggio Inglese, ma che sia loro assolutamente vietata l'uscita da' porti della Gran Bretagna.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Firmato) CASTELCICALA.

(Translation.)

London, December 30, 1848.

THE Undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty The King of the Two Sicilies at the Court of Her Britannic Majesty, has the honour to call the attention of his Excellency Viscount Palmerston Chief Secretary of State in the Department of Foreign Affairs, to the following statement.

The self-styled Government of Palermo has purchased of the Oriental Steam Navigation Company two steam-ships which are now in a state of almost complete equipment, one of which, named the "Bombay," is in Blackwall basin; the other named "Vectis," lies in the docks of Liverpool: "Bombay" and "Vectis" at all events were the names of the two ships when they were first built.

The "Bombay" is of about 450 horse-power, of 1200 tons, and may be armed with seven guns.

The "Vectis" was built at Cowes in the Isle of Wight and took in her engines at Liverpool, and may be of about 450 horse-power and of 1300 tons burden.

The Undersigned is informed that the two ships were bought by agents from Palermo, who have already paid 20,000*l.* to the Oriental Navigation Company, with the condition that the Company shall complete the equipment, shall take the two ships to Palermo with the English flag and an English crew,

shall deliver them there, and shall then receive the remainder of the purchase-money.

The equipment is now rapidly advancing; it is known in the Blackwadi and Liverpool Docks that the two ships are intended for the insurgents in Sicily; two Sicilians, named Joseph Diliberto and Salvator D'Amico, have for the last several months superintended and are now superintending the fixing of the engines and every other matter relative to the completion of the works, and finally, an officer of the Royal British Navy named Mudy has (un'less the information received by the Undersigned is incorrect) privately directed many of the works and is to take the command of the "Bombay."

His Excellency Viscount Palmerston has received information and copies of the notes which passed between the British Chargé d'Affaires at Naples and Prince Cariati relative to the use made by the Neapolitan steamer "Stromboli" of the British flag to capture two vessels filled with Sicilians who were escaping from Calabria after having excited insurrection there. Lord Palmerston has also been informed (and it is painful to the Undersigned to recall it to him) of the haughty and unusual manner in which Lord Napier and Admiral Parker required that the British colours should not be used again by the ships of His Sicilian Majesty's Navy for similar purposes.

It would have been easy to bring forward arguments, opinions of celebrated writers on the law of nations, and instances furnished in the last maritime wars even by the English fleet, in support of the procedure of the Commander of the "Stromboli." But the Cabinet of the Two Sicilies always desirous to show deference to that of Great Britain, declared in the note of the 3rd July last, that in the view of furthering the wishes of Vice-Admiral Parker, it had been determined that the ships of the Royal Navy should not in future employ the English flag in similar circumstances. But in the just right of reciprocity it required that the same should be demanded of the Sicilians who on several occasions had hoisted the English flag in order to escape from the cruizers of the Royal Navy.

Lord Napier in fact in his letter of the 26th July declared that it had been for a long time prohibited by English Representatives and Agents that Sicilian vessels should sail under the British flag, and that he was about to renew his instructions to that effect to the English Consul at Palermo.

After such positive assurances the Undersigned is persuaded that Lord Palmerston will never allow the two ships to be taken to Sicily under the English flag and with an English crew. But if such a fact should take place against all right and all probability, the Government of the Two Sicilies beyond a doubt would be freed from every preceding engagement contracted solely by deference towards England, nor could the British Representatives ever impute blame to it for the use of any measures whatsoever by which it might prevent the execution of such design, as it would be only imitating that which would be done by its enemies to its great injury, with the full assent of the English Government.

And further, the Undersigned, would remind Lord Palmerston that when in 1846 General Flores prepared here an expedition against one of the States of South America, the English Government prevented its departure and overthrew the expedition, alleging the laws of the land, which do not permit war to be made against a State with which England has friendly relations, through means furnished and got together on the British territory.

The British laws then, the engagements contracted, antecedent instances, the ties of friendship between the two Courts, and what is better, the spirit of justice which guides the acts of the English Cabinet, strongly warrant the Undersigned, on the part of his Government, to ask with confidence from Lord Palmerston a favourable attention to his request, not only that the two above-named steam-ships be prevented from proceeding to Sicily with English flags and crews, but that they be absolutely prohibited from leaving the ports of Great Britain.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

CASTELCICALA.

No. 362.

*Viscount Palmerston to Prince Castelecaleo.**Foreign Office, January 6, 1849.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note which Prince Castelecaleo, &c., addressed to him on the 30th of December, calling the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the purchase of two steam-vessels in this country with a view to their being employed in hostilities against the Government of the King of the Two Sicilies, and to the alleged intention on the part of the persons concerned in making the purchase, that the vessels should proceed to Palermo under the English flag and with an English crew, there to be delivered over to the purchasers on payment of the remainder of the purchase-money, 20,000*l.* only having been hitherto paid on account.

The Undersigned has the honour to state to Prince Castelecaleo that Her Majesty's Government cannot interfere with the fitting out of vessels in a British port, nor with their departure therefrom, unless the equipment of such vessels shall bring them within the scope of the provisions of the Act of the 59th Geo. III. c. 61, commonly called the "Foreign Enlistment Act;" and the Undersigned can therefore only refer Prince Castelecaleo to the provisions of that Act as a guide for any proceedings which Prince Castelecaleo may be legally advised to take.

The Undersigned must however observe with reference to Prince Castelecaleo's note, that there is no parity whatever between the deceptive use made of the British flag by Captain Salazar of the Neapolitan steam-vessel "*Stromboli*" in order to mislead and to capture the Sicilian refugees in the neighbourhood of Corfu on the 11th of July last, and the case of a merchant-vessel contracted for in this country under the condition of being delivered at some foreign port, and which, as long as it continues to be a British vessel, is entitled to wear the British flag.

With respect to the intimation contained in Prince Castelecaleo's note that in the assumed case of the above-mentioned vessels proceeding to Sicily under the British flag, the Government of the King of the Two Sicilies will break the engagement recorded in Prince Caristi's note of the 25th July last to Lord Napier, that the ships of the Neapolitan Navy should no longer use British colours, the Undersigned can only say that he estimates too highly the judgment of the Neapolitan Government to anticipate that they will take such a course.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

No. 363.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 19, 1849.)

My Lord,

Naples, December 6, 1848.

THE King of Naples having returned from Gaeta I had the honour on the 2nd instant of being admitted to an audience by His Majesty.

I told His Majesty that I had been commanded by my Sovereign to assure him of the amicable feelings with which Her Majesty was animated towards him, and that I was sure that it would afford the sincerest satisfaction to Her Majesty and to her Government if their good offices could conduce to the establishment of an amicable arrangement between His Sicilian Majesty and the Sicilian people, upon conditions which might be honourable and satisfactory to both parties. I said that the French Government being equally anxious that this object should be attained, my Government was entirely agreed with that of France upon the nature of the arrangement which it would be most desirable to effect, and that I was directed to act in concert with the Minister of France, whose instructions were similar to mine.

I alluded to what I understood to be the chief difficulty in the way of

arriving at a satisfactory understanding, namely, the question of the army, which however I sincerely trusted might be got over upon a calm consideration of the subject.

His Majesty said that he was willing to grant a constitution and separate administration to the Sicilians, but considered it necessary for the tranquillity of Sicily and the security of the Government, that there should be only one army, composed of Neapolitan and Sicilian troops, for the common service of both countries.

I assured His Majesty that the proposal for separating the army of Sicily from that of Naples did not arise from any desire to oppose the wishes or the interests of His Majesty, but solely from the conviction that it was indispensable for obtaining the object we had in view, which was to re-establish confidence and amicable relations between him and his Sicilian subjects.

After some further conversation I took leave of His Majesty, who received me very graciously.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

No. 364.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 19, 1849.)

My Lord,

Naples, December 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing to your Lordship herewith the copy of a despatch addressed to me by Her Majesty's Consul at Messina, giving some details of the barbarities committed during the capture of Messina upon the defenceless and unarmed part of the population, and of the extent of the devastation caused by the bombardment and by the royal troops.

I also transmit copies of two inclosures which accompanied it, the one containing an estimate of the losses sustained by the British residents, and the other containing a list communicated by the foreign Consuls, of the losses sustained by their respective countrymen in consequence of the bombardment, pillage, and conflagration of the town and its suburbs.

It does not appear that any proclamation was issued by the Neapolitan Government or officer in command to the inhabitants of Messina before the attack commenced, nor were any summons or any conditions previously offered to them, so that they had not the alternative given to them of saving their town from destruction by a timely submission, even had they been so inclined.

The greater portion of the damage suffered by the town was inflicted by the bombardment which continued for eight hours after all resistance had ceased on the part of the Sicilians and the flags on their forts had been struck; and it was not till this bombardment had ceased that the troops landed and attacked, pillaged, and burnt the habitations in the suburbs and the adjacent country.

Admiral Baudin has informed me that he had himself personally inspected the town of Messina and its neighbourhood to satisfy himself of what had really taken place, and that it was evident to him that the principal destruction of life and property was carried on, not for any legitimate object of warfare, but principally for the sole purpose of destroying the inhabitants and of plundering and burning their habitations, and probably with a view also of striking other towns with terror.

Mr. Barker has stated that he has found much difficulty in obtaining accurate information upon the subject from the survivors, from their fear that if it were known that they had made such communications they might thereby incur the resentment of the Neapolitan authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 364.

Consul Barker to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Messina, December 14, 1848.

IN compliance with the instructions received in a despatch from the Right Hon. Lord Napier dated the 13th November, I have the honour to forward for the information of Viscount Palmerston a detailed account of the barbarities committed during the late capture of Messina, and of the extent of devastation caused by the bombardment and by the Royal troops.

The inclosed statement No. 1 contains an estimate of the losses sustained by the British residents by bombardment, sack, and conflagration.

From some of the foreign Consuls I have received list of damages sustained by their respective countrymen as per inclosure No. 2.

It is almost impossible to make any approximate calculation of the sacrifice of Sicilian property, but it is estimated by competent persons at five millions of dollars.

The treatment which the prisoners and people received who fell into the hands of the troops was most barbarous, as will be seen in the sequel.

I have not been able to ascertain whether any soldiers have been made prisoners, and how they are treated by the Sicilians; none were detained after the 6th September.

The sack and conflagration commenced about three miles south of the town, and with the exception of twelve or fourteen houses the fire consumed the whole suburbs to the end of the Strada Cardinis, leaving an extent of three miles, and one-third of the houses of Messina in a state of ruin. The Monte de Piété of Santo Angelo de Rossi and Monticello were spoliated of their pledges, and the latter was set on fire. The village of the Santo and the portion of the Casalotto di Camari were pillaged and burnt to the ground. The cottages of several poor peasants spread over a large tract of land were also reduced to ashes and the cattle killed. The greater part of the booty was shipped in small boats for Calabria. I calculate that one-third of the inhabitants are left houseless and in penury.

On the 7th September the troops had full possession of the town, but the sack continued until the morning of the 8th. Order was partially restored on the 9th.

I might relate numerous cases of peculiar cruelty which have been reported to me, but will confine myself to a few which I know to be authentic.

B. Calalro, an industrious peasant, and his family were taken prisoners while endeavouring to escape from their cottage which had been set on fire. As they were being escorted into the citadel some soldiers armed with clubs knocked Calalro and his son-in-law down dead in the presence of their respective wives and children.

Francisco Bombace, a countryman about 80 years of age, was killed in his sick bed.

Litterio Russo, a dyer, abandoned his house, but was unable to remove his sick daughter to a place of safety; on returning home he found that she had been assassinated, her head and breasts having been severed from the body.

Antonio Grambio, apothecary to the civic hospital, was trying to escape with his son Giuseppe and Antonio Cernito his nephew; the soldiers prevented him and demanded his money; he gave them 100 ounces, but the son and nephew were shot at his feet.

The daughter of Giacchino ——— and several other females who had sheltered themselves in the Church of the Magdalen were violated and then shot.

About thirty lame people who had been taken out of the hospital of Cola Reale were burnt to death in the Magdalen. It is supposed that a great number of people lost their lives in this church, but it is difficult to get correct information as the convent and church were burnt down.

Two females were violated and then shot in the Church of G. M. del Giacato.

The chaplain Demaggio of St. Clemente was shot in the church.

Giuseppe Andò and his daughter clasped in his arms were shot dead. The house he inhabited was set on fire and three persons who were sheltered there were burnt to death.

Giacomo Severino and his baby, Luigi Parisi, a lunatic, and Onagio Amat, a dwarf, were killed by the soldiers.

At the Zaera a man and his wife were thrown out of the balcony and the man shot.

A lame man in his vain efforts to escape was shot in the orchard of the Magdalen.

A countryman of M. Aini's was killed in a grotto, the corpse was surrounded with filth, and a biscuit placed in the mouth.

Four lame people were killed in the hospital of Cola Reale.

A Swiss residing in Messina was killed at his country-house.

It is difficult to ascertain the number of persons that were burnt to death or shot by the soldiers, as the greater part of the people who inhabited that part of the town which is now destroyed went to Palermo or Catania.

I have no reason to believe that Swiss soldiers were put to death in cold blood and their flesh devoured and sold in the public markets, but I can assert that on the 3rd of September the bodies of two soldiers killed in the combat were mutilated by the rabble and their limbs carried about the town. With the exception of this inhuman parade by the irritated populace, I have not heard that the Sicilians committed other acts of barbarism.

The aspect of the city and of the surrounding district where the troops passed is most awful; for nearly three miles nothing meets the eye but desolation.

In the town almost every house and church sustained more or less injury by the bombardment. Some of the buildings on the Marina suffered immense damage. Several palaces and houses were destroyed by projectiles fired from the citadel.

With the exception of M. G. M. Rilian, the Greek and Bavarian Consul (whose house was plundered and himself stabbed by soldiers), the residences and persons of foreign Consuls were not molested. The churches of the Speosi, Magdalen, St. Domenico, and a portion of St. Filippo Neri, were spoliated of their plate and then destroyed by fire. Some soldiers entered the Church of St. Clemente, threw the sacred bread on the floor and carried away the plate and jewels.

The firing from the town and from the batteries ceased on the night of the 6th; and at daylight on the 7th, although all the flags were struck on the forts and in the town, the bombardment began, and was continued until after noon without any interruption, and without a single shot being fired from the batteries within the town. The consequence of this wanton bombardment was the destruction of the principal part of the town which was set on fire in eleven different places and in every direction. The hotels, palaces, and houses on the Marina, although in no degree exposed, have all suffered very severely. The Senate-house, one of the finest buildings on the Marina was burnt, and most of the principal buildings and the town suffered severely from conflagration on the 7th, more than they had done during the whole of the preceding period of the civil war.

In framing this relation for Her Majesty's Government I have consulted Captain John Robb of Her Majesty's ship "Gladiator" and other persons worthy of confidence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. W. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 364.

Losses sustained by the British residents during the late capture of Messina caused by the bombardment, sack, and conflagration.

	Oz.		Oz.
Luigi Camilleri Grech - -	142	Maria Pierce - - -	400
Ditto Ditto - - -	1,600	Thomas Hallam - - -	8,209
Gioschino Grima - - -	385	Marianne Barrester - - -	160
Crisafa Giurti - - -	300	James Gillam - - -	240
Joseph Richards - - -	450	J. B. Stulzer - - -	1,500
Salvatore Gattruggeri - - -	990	G. B. Stuart - - -	675
Alessandro Mussuri - - -	80	Marianne Barrett - - -	4,000
Famiglia Attard - - -	217	John Causton - - -	730
Leondario Basile - - -	400	John C. Cailler - - -	400
George P. Allsopp - - -	160	S. and M. Gamble - - -	1,500
William Bygrave - - -	650	Thomas Chialton - - -	50
Joseph Pitts - - -	4,529	Marianne Galifano - - -	400
Antony Catarmia - - -	1,700	Francis Thride (not known)	
Richard Poppleton - - -	1,350	Joseph Battaglia - - -	330
Samuel Hammet - - -	1,100	Conte A. Stagno - - -	60
Richard Precc - - -	600	William Sanderson - - -	500
Gius. Gattruggeri - - -	6,042	O. B. Mercieca - - -	00
Thomas Child - - -	400	Francis Thorey - - -	52
William Richards - - -	300	F. and M. Camelleri - - -	00
Henry B. Barrett - - -	1,500	A. Malthey - - -	20
Thomas Poppleton - - -	800	Edward Oates - - -	100
		Total - - -	Oz. 44,421

(Signed) W. W. BARKER, Consul.

Messina, December 14, 1848.

Inclosure 3 in No. 364.

List received from some of the foreign Consuls, of losses sustained by their respective countrymen during the late capture of Messina.

	Oz.
Consular Agent of Portugal - - -	2,058
Consul of Greece and Bavaria - - -	197
Consul of Lubeck and Bremen - - -	2,470
Consul of Roman States - - -	533
Consul of Belgium - - -	307
Consul of Sardinia - - -	1,509
Consul of Hanover - - -	491

Oz. 7,565

Messina, December 14, 1848.

(Signed) W. W. BARKER.

No. 365.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 19, 1849.)

(Extract.)

Naples, December 23, 1848.

HAVING according to your Lordship's instructions placed myself in communication with the French Minister for the purpose of concerting with him the steps which it would be most expedient for us to take for entering into negotiation with the Neapolitan Government and with the persons who may be in

authority in Sicily, with a view of bringing about an accommodation between the Sicilians and the King, we agreed in the first instance that it would be necessary to endeavour to persuade the Neapolitan Government to concede those fair and reasonable conditions which we were instructed by our respective Governments to propose as affording the best means for attaining the object in view. Accordingly we each addressed a note to Prince Cariati, of which the inclosed are copies.

They are the same in substance, as we were desirous of showing the perfect agreement of our Governments upon the subject.

I received in reply a note from Prince Cariati dated the 19th December, of which the inclosed is a copy, and a similar note was also addressed to M. de Rayneval.

In this note His Excellency states that although in the absence of the King he was not able to take His Majesty's orders, his intimate knowledge of the King's sentiments enabled him to state that His Majesty considered it absolutely necessary for the tranquillity of Sicily that the Neapolitan and Sicilian forces should be united together and form but one combined army.

The Prince terminates his note by claiming a right on the part of the Spanish Ambassador to take part in any conferences which may be held during the negotiations. I also inclose the copy of a second note which was addressed to us on the 21st after the return of the King of Naples, in which Prince Cariati refers us to his former note, and accepts our good offices for settling the Sicilian Question, but desires that the Representatives of Spain and Russia should take part in the conferences.

Prince Cariati also states that His Sicilian Majesty had appointed Prince Satriano to carry on the negotiations with us in his name.

I understand that the Spanish Ambassador has expressed a strong desire to take part in the negotiations, but such is not the case with the Russian Minister, who had not even been applied to on the subject at the time this note was written.

Count Chreptowich on the contrary has assured me that he had received instructions not to interfere officially in this question, as the Emperor of Russia did not approve of the manner in which the armistice had been established; but he was instructed to avail himself of any opportunity for promoting a good understanding upon the subject between the parties.

Inclosure 1 in No. 365.

The Hon. W. Temple to Prince Cariati.

Prince,

Naples, December 16, 1848.

THE communications which have passed between the Government of His Sicilian Majesty and this Legation during the month of September last, relative to the affairs of Sicily, have been laid before the Government of Her Britannic Majesty.

Her Majesty's Government solely animated by a sincere desire to avoid the further effusion of blood, and to see the means of persuasion substituted for those of violence, have approved the conduct of the Naval Commanders of Great Britain and France, and have viewed with the highest satisfaction the wisdom and moderation of His Sicilian Majesty in having suspended hostilities, and thereby having opened the way to a permanent arrangement by amicable negotiation and mutual concessions.

Her Majesty's Government and the Government of France being anxious that this object should be attained with the least possible delay and on the most equitable basis, have concerted together and have entirely agreed upon the nature of the arrangement which it would be desirable to effect between Sicily and Naples; and the two Governments taking an equal interest in the welfare of both parties, entertain a confident expectation that through their friendly influence an amicable settlement of the differences now existing between them might be satisfactorily arranged.

I have accordingly received instructions to tender to the Government of His Sicilian Majesty my good offices, in conjunction with those of the French Minister,

for the purpose of endeavouring to carry into effect a settlement of the Sicilian Question. I request therefore your Excellency to have the goodness to inform me whether the Government of His Sicilian Majesty, animated by the same spirit of conciliation, will feel disposed to enter into direct communication with the Representatives of Great Britain and France for the purpose of concerting with them a prompt and pacific arrangement of Sicilian affairs, of such a nature as may justify them in pressing it upon the consideration of the Sicilians, and may afford a reasonable prospect of its ultimate success.

It appears to the Governments of Great Britain and France that the only conditions which would offer any chance of permanently establishing a good understanding between Naples and Sicily, and be consistent with the interests of both, are nearly identical with those which at a former period His Sicilian Majesty appeared to be willing to grant to his Sicilian subjects on a judicious consideration of that variety of character, of wants, and of traditions, which distinguishes them from the inhabitants of his peninsular dominions, namely, separate political institutions, a separate Parliament, and a separate administration; the maintenance of order and the defence of the country being exclusively entrusted to a Sicilian army organized by His Majesty and placed under his command.

The two Governments confiding in the wisdom of His Sicilian Majesty and in the generous sentiments with which he is animated, feel convinced that following the impulse of his humane disposition he will consider it indispensable to grant a general and complete amnesty to all persons who may have taken any part either directly or indirectly in the political movements of Sicily, without which it would be impossible to calm passions or to establish upon a durable foundation a sincere reconciliation between Naples and Sicily.

Should the Government of His Sicilian Majesty be disposed to empower the Representatives of Great Britain and France to concert an arrangement upon such a basis, I shall be ready in conjunction with the Representative of the French Government to enter into communication with your Excellency upon this subject, and in conformity with the views of my Government to exert all my efforts towards effecting a pacific solution of the Sicilian Question, and effacing for ever those sentiments of animosity which have unfortunately grown up where there is every motive for amity and union.

Requesting your Excellency to communicate to me the intentions of His Sicilian Majesty and of his Government, I avail, &c.

(Signed)

W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 365.

M. de Rayneval to Prince Cariati.

Prince,

Naples, 16 Décembre, 1849.

JE me suis fait un devoir de donner communication à mon Gouvernement des notes que j'ai eu l'honneur d'échanger avec votre Excellence au mois de Septembre dernier, au sujet des affaires de Sicile.

Le Gouvernement de la République, animé du sincère et unique désir d'éviter l'effusion du sang et de voir les moyens violens remplacés par ceux de la persuasion, a approuvé la conduite suivie par M. l'Amiral Baudin. En même temps, appréciant toute la modération du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Sicilienne, il lui a su gré au plus haut point d'avoir suspendu le cours des hostilités, ouvrant ainsi les voies à un accommodement amiable.

Le Gouvernement de la République s'est mis d'accord avec celui de Sa Majesté Britannique sur les moyens d'atteindre le plus promptement possible ce désirable résultat.

Les deux Gouvernemens, qu'animent un complet accord de vues et un égal intérêt pour la prospérité des deux parties, ayant jugé qu'ils pourraient utilement servir d'intermédiaire entre Sa Majesté Sicilienne et les Siciliens, j'ai reçu l'ordre d'offrir au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Sicilienne conjointement avec le Représentant de Sa Majesté Britannique, mes bons offices, dans le but d'arriver à une solution amiable de la Question Sicilienne. Je viens prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire connaître si le Gouvernement du Roi, entrant

dans le même ordre d'idées, ne jugerait pas à propos de se mettre en communication avec les Représentans des deux Puissances, afin de combiner avec eux un prompt et pacifique arrangement, sur des bases telles qu'ils puissent entreprendre de le faire accepter à Palerme avec espoir de réussir.

Il a semblé aux Gouvernemens de France et d'Angleterre que les seules bases qui pussent offrir des chances de rétablir d'une manière durable la paix et la concorde entre Naples et la Sicile, en donnant satisfaction aux véritables intérêts des deux parties, étaient à peu près celles qu'à une autre époque Sa Majesté Sicilienne, tenant un juste compte des différences de caractère, de besoins et de traditions qui distinguent les Siciliens des Napolitains, s'est montrée prête à appliquer à la Sicile ; c'est à dire, institutions politiques, Parlement, administration séparés ; le maintien de l'ordre et la défense du territoire restant exclusivement confiés à une armée Sicilienne organisée par le Roi et placée sous ses ordres.

Les deux Gouvernemens connaissent trop les sentimens de générosité qui animent Sa Majesté Sicilienne pour n'être pas convaincus qu'elle ne juge indispensable, autant pour obéir à ses inspirations que pour calmer les passions et fonder sur des bases durables la réconciliation qui est le but commun de leurs efforts, d'accorder une amnistie générale et complète à toutes les personnes qui auraient pris une part plus ou moins directe aux mouvemens politiques de la Sicile.

S'il pouvait convenir au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Sicilienne de mettre à même les Représentans des deux Puissances de tenter un accommodement sur ces bases, je serais prêt, conjointement avec le Représentant de Sa Majesté Britannique, à entrer en pourparlers avec votre Excellence et à contribuer de tous mes efforts à la solution pacifique de la Question Sicilienne, secondant en cela les vues de mon Gouvernement, et encouragé par l'espoir de voir disparaître entre deux contrées que leur intérêt doit porter à rester unies, les sentimens d'hostilité qui malheureusement aujourd'hui les séparent.

En priant votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire connaître les intentions du Roi et de son Gouvernement, je saisis, &c.

(Signé)

A. DE RAYNEVAL.

(Translation.)

Prince,

Naples, December 16, 1849.

I MADE it my duty to communicate to my Government the notes which I had the honour to exchange with your Excellency in the month of September last, on the subject of the affairs of Sicily.

The Government of the Republic, animated by the sincere and sole desire of avoiding bloodshed, and of seeing violent measures replaced by those of persuasion, has approved the conduct pursued by Admiral Baudin. At the same time, appreciating all the moderation of His Sicilian Majesty's Government, it feels grateful to it in the highest degree for having arrested the course of hostilities, thus opening the way to an amicable settlement.

The Government of the Republic has concurred with that of Her Britannic Majesty as to the means of attaining, as promptly as possible, this desirable result.

The two Governments, which are animated by a perfect similarity of views and an equal interest for the prosperity of the two parties, having judged that they could usefully serve as mediators between His Sicilian Majesty and the Sicilians, I have received the order to offer to the Government of His Sicilian Majesty, conjointly with the Representative of Her Britannic Majesty, my good offices, with the view of arriving at an amicable solution of the Sicilian Question. I have now to beg your Excellency to be good enough to let me know whether the Government of the King, taking the same view of these matters, would not consider it expedient to enter into communications with the Representatives of the two Powers, in order to combine with them a speedy and peaceable arrangement, on such bases as might enable them to undertake to procure its acceptance at Palermo with some hope of success.

It has seemed to the Governments of France and England that the only bases which can offer any likelihood of re-establishing in a lasting manner peace and concord between Naples and Sicily, by satisfying the real interests of the two parties, were as nearly as possible those which at another period His Sicilian

Majesty, entertaining a due regard for the differences of character, of wants, and of traditions which distinguish the Sicilians from the Neapolitans, showed himself ready to apply to Sicily; that is to say, separate political institutions, parliament, and administration; the maintenance of order, and the defence of the territory remaining exclusively entrusted to a Sicilian army, organized by the King and placed under his orders.

The two Governments are too well acquainted with the sentiments of generosity which animate His Sicilian Majesty, not to be convinced that he considers it indispensable, as much to obey the dictates of his own heart as to appease passions and to found on lasting bases the reconciliation which is the common object of their efforts, to accord a general and complete amnesty to all persons who may have taken a part, more or less direct, in the political movements of Sicily.

If it should suit the Government of His Sicilian Majesty to enable the Representatives of the two Powers to attempt an arrangement on these bases, I should be ready, in conjunction with the Representative of Her Britannic Majesty, to enter into conference with your Excellency, and to contribute with all my power to the pacific solution of the Sicilian Question, thus seconding the views of my Government, and encouraged by the hope of seeing disappear between two countries, whom their own interest should induce to continue friends, the sentiments of hostility which unfortunately now separate them.

Begging your Excellency to have the goodness to acquaint me with the intentions of the King and of his Government,

I take, &c.

(Signed) A. DE RAYNEVAL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 365.

Prince Cariatì to the Hon. W. Temple.

Eccellenza,

Napoli, 19 Dicembre, 1848.

IN assenza di Sua Maestà, di cui non ho potuto ancora prendere gli ordini diretti, ma di cui conosco anticipatamente e di una maniera esplicita le intenzioni, mi do la maggior premura di rispondere alla comunicazione di vostra Eccellenza in data de' 16 del corrente sulla vertenza Siciliana.

L'esibizione che vostra Eccellenza ha fatta a Sua Maestà Siciliana in nome del suo Governo, d'interporre cioè i suoi buoni uffizj nello scopo di giungere ad una amichevole composizione della Quistione Siciliana, mi sembra difficile a conciliarsi con l'opinione che l'Eccellenza vostra sembra essersi formata di taluna delle concessioni che Sua Maestà il Rè potrebbe accordare a' suoi sudditi di Sicilia.

Il Rè sente tutta l'importanza e tutta la gravità de' doveri impostegli dalla Provvidenza, e non saprebbe prestarsi ad una combinazione di cose che non renderebbe sicura e d'una maniera stabile la tranquillità della Sicilia sì stranamente sconvolta. Sua Maestà è intimamente convinta che non potrebbe mai raggiungere questo scopo, se non con la unione intima delle armate di terra e di mare Siciliane e Napolitane, che non debbon formare se non un esercito unico e composto indistintamente di Napolitani e Siciliani.

L'opinione dell'Eccellenza vostra intorno a questo punto, trovasi in contraddizione diretta con le idee del Rè e le urgenti necessità della Sicilia, e ciò non può che affliggere la Maestà Sua.

Io credo essere fedele interprete de' sentimenti del Rè nello annunciarle anticipatamente esser questa la meditata convinzione di Sua Maestà.

Stabilito da parte mia questo punto principale, non ometterò di aggiungervi talune particolari osservazioni. Volendo supporre un momento che il Cavaliere Temple meglio informato degl'interessi che assicura di aver a cuore di proteggere, e de' mezzi di ristabilire in Sicilia l'ordine e la pace, giungesse a penetrarsi della opinione che ho avuto l'onore di esporle, e che il Governo del Rè non abbia che a profittare de' buoni uffizj per definire col di lei concorso amichevole tutte le altre quistioni accessorie; io mi permetto allora dimandarle qual sarebbe il di lei contegno, se il sedicente Governo di Palermo non accettasse poi l'ultimatum al quale l'Eccellenza vostra stessa avrebbe concorso? Il desiderio di conciliazione

ch'ella ci esprime la porterebbe poi ad impiegare gli stessi mezzi contivi per facilitare una pacificazione ch'ella avrebbe amichevolmente proposta e che si tratta di stabilire? Il contegno preso in un momento di trasporto il giorno 11 Settembre ultimo dalle due squadre Francese ed Inglese, e di cui ella avrà dovuto di poi calcolare l'effetto, non ha potuto dimenticarsi dal Rè, e quando io mi rammento che in faccia ad un Governo amico gli Ammiragli Parker e Baudin, per mezzo de' capitani di vascello Robb e Nonay, minacciarono di arrestar con la forza ogni continuazione di ostilità, io mi credo in dritto di domandarle se essi userebbero in faccia a sudditi rivoltosi un contegno capace di risolverle con la forza la quistione?

Prima di terminare ella mi permetta una ultima comunicazione. Vostra Eccellenza non ignora che il Duca di Rivas ha notificato, in nome dei dritti eventuali della dinastia regnante in Spagna al Trono delle Due Sicilie, una dimanda al Rè per prender parte alle conferenze che possono aprirsi. Gli ordini della sua Corte son formali, e Sua Maestà Siciliana non potrebbe in alcun modo impedire a questo Ambasciatore d'intervenirvi. La quistione della quale dovrà occuparsi non essendo nè Spagnola nè Inglese, ma esclusivamente Napolitana Siciliana e dinastica, vostra Eccellenza spero non troverà veruna obbiezione a questa ammissione, la quale, nello stato attuale delle relazioni diplomatiche tra l'Inghilterra e la Spagna, potrebbe incontrar qualche difficoltà se si trattasse d'interessi Castigliani e Britannici. Se Sua Maestà il Rè volesse staccare la Sicilia dal suo regno, la Spagna non potrebbe consentirvi per ragione dei suoi dritti eventuali alla Corona testè mentovati. Or lo scopo delle conferenze essendo quello appunto d'impedire la separazione delle Due Sicilie ove giungasi ad accordarsi, o nel caso contrario a provocarla, egli è impossibile che la Spagna possa rassegnarsi di vedersene esclusa.

Non credo necessario farle osservare che giammai Sua Maestà Siciliana si è mostrata menomamente disposta alla separazione dell'armata Siciliana e Napolitana dappoiché è un fatto stabilito e costante, e per conseguenza la mia asserzione su tal punto non ha bisogno nè di prove nè di schiarimento.

Prego l'Eccellenza vostra di darmi un sollecito riscontro e di credermi, &c.

(Firmato)

PRINCIPE DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Naples, December 19, 1848.

IN the absence of His Majesty, whose direct orders I have not been able to take, but whose intentions have already been explicitly made known to me, I hasten to answer your Excellency's note of the 16th instant respecting the Sicilian Question.

The offer which your Excellency has made to His Sicilian Majesty in the name of his Government, namely, to interpose your good offices for the purpose of arriving at an amicable arrangement of the Sicilian Question, appears to me difficult to reconcile with the opinion which your Excellency seems to have formed with respect to some of the concessions which His Majesty the King might accord to his subjects of Sicily.

The King feels all the importance and gravity of the duties imposed upon him by Providence, and could never lend himself to any arrangement which would not establish upon a sure and durable footing the tranquillity of Sicily which has been so strangely disturbed.

His Majesty is fully convinced that he never could attain this object without the complete amalgamation of the Sicilian and Neapolitan military and naval forces, which should form but one single army composed indiscriminately of Neapolitans and Sicilians.

The opinion of your Excellency upon this point is in direct contradiction to the ideas of the King, and to the urgent necessities of Sicily; and this cannot but cause pain to His Majesty.

I consider myself to be a faithful interpreter of the sentiments of the King in announcing to you beforehand that this is the well-considered conviction of His Majesty.

Having established this principal point I shall not omit to add some particular observations. Supposing for a moment that your Excellency having acquired better information respecting the interests which you declare you have

so much at heart to protect, and of the means of re-establishing order and peace in Sicily, should agree in the opinion which I have had the honour to lay before you, and that nothing remained to prevent the King's Government from availing itself of your good offices to settle with your friendly concurrence all the other accessory questions, I beg then to ask you what attitude you would assume if the self-styled Government of Palermo were not to accept the ultimatum to which your Excellency would have been a party. Would the desire of conciliation which you express to us induce you then to employ the same coercive measures for facilitating a pacification which you would have proposed in a friendly spirit, and which it is sought to carry into effect?

The attitude assumed in a moment of excitement by the English and French squadrons on the 11th of last September, the effects of which you must since have been well able to calculate, has not been forgotten by the King; and when I recollect that the Admirals Parker and Baudin, through Captains Robb and Nonay, threatened a friendly Government to prevent by force every continuation of hostilities, I think I have the right to ask you if they would assume towards revolted subjects such an attitude as would settle the question by force?

Before I conclude you will allow me to make the following communication.

Your Excellency is aware that the Duke of Rivas, in virtue of the eventual rights of the reigning dynasty in Spain to the Throne of the Two Sicilies, has asked the King to take part in the conferences which may be held.

The orders of his Court are formal, and His Sicilian Majesty could not in any way prevent this Ambassador from taking part in them. As the question under consideration is neither Spanish nor English, but exclusively Neapolitan, Sicilian and dynastic, I hope your Excellency will not make any objection to his being admitted, which, in the present state of diplomatic relations between England and Spain, might meet with some difficulty if the question under consideration related to English and Spanish interests.

Should His Majesty the King feel inclined to separate Sicily from his kingdom, Spain could not give her consent on account of her eventual rights to the Crown as mentioned above. Now the object of the conferences being in fact to prevent the separation of the Two Sicilies, if it is possible to come to some arrangement, or if the contrary happens, to promote it, it is impossible that Spain can quietly submit in finding herself excluded.

I think it is unnecessary to point out that His Sicilian Majesty has never shown himself in the least degree disposed to admit the separation of the Sicilian and Neapolitan armies, as it is an established and well-known fact, and therefore my assertion upon that point requires neither proof nor explanation.

I beg your Excellency to send me an early reply and to believe me, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE CARIATI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 365.

Prince Cariati to the Hon. W. Temple.

Napoli, 21 Dicembre, 1848.

IL Sottoscritto, &c., ha preso gli ordini diretti di Sua Maestà sul contenuto della nota in data de' 16 corrente, di sua Eccellenza il Cavaliere Temple, &c., con la quale, conformamente alle istruzioni del suo Gabinetto, offre a questo Real Governo di adoperare i suoi buoni uffizj insieme a quello del Rappresentante della Repubblica Francese, onde sollecitamente e con mezzi amichevoli comporre la vertenza Siciliana ed è stato incaricato di riferirsi a quanto trovasi avere già esposto nella sua confidenziale del 19 del corrente.

Sua Maestà nello accettare i buoni uffizj del Gabinetto d'Inghilterra e di quello di Francia per condurre a termine, se sarà possibile, la pacificazione della Sicilia, non può dispensarsi dal richiedere che l'Ambasciatore di Sua Maestà Cattolica ed il Ministro di Sua Maestà l'Imperatore di tutte le Russie accreditati presso Sua Maestà il Rè, nella loro qualità di Rappresentanti di Potenze con le quali esistono i più stretti legami di parentela e di amicizia, e che sono segnatamente garanti de' Trattati del 1815, che assicurano alla dinastia felicemente regnante il possesso e la integrità della Monarchia delle Due Sicilie, intervengano e prendan parte alle discussioni che andranno ad aver luogo.

Il Sottoscritto ha l'onore di prevenire il Signor Inviato che Sua Maestà ha incaricato sua Eccellenza il Signor Tenente-Generale Principe di Satriano di discutere coi Signori Ministri d'Inghilterra e di Francia, le concessioni medianti le quali la Sicilia avrebbe tosto a rientrare sotto il dominio del legittimo Sovrano, nella certezza che le distinte qualità di cui va adorna la sua persona, e la perfetta cognizione ch'egli possiede delle cose dell'isola, renderanno più facile e spedite le trattative.

Profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PCE. DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, December 21, 1848.

THE Undersigned has taken the direct orders of His Sicilian Majesty respecting the contents of the note of his Excellency Mr. Temple of the 16th instant, in which in conformity with the instructions of his Government he offers to this Royal Government to employ his good offices in conjunction with the Representative of the French Republic for the purpose of settling the Sicilian Question by prompt and amicable means, and the Undersigned has been ordered to refer to what he has already stated in his confidential note of the 19th instant.

His Majesty in accepting the good offices of England and France for the purpose of bringing about if possible the pacification of Sicily, cannot avoid requesting that the Ambassador of Her Catholic Majesty and the Minister of the Emperor of all the Russias accredited to His Majesty the King, in their capacity of Representatives of Powers with whom His Majesty is bound by the strictest ties of blood and friendship, and who were parties to the Treaties of 1815, which assure to the dynasty happily reigning the possession and integrity of the Monarchy of the Two Sicilies, should assist at and take part in the conferences which will take place.

The Undersigned has the honour to inform Mr. Temple that His Majesty has charged his Excellency the Prince of Satriano to discuss with the Ministers of France and England the concessions by means of which Sicily may quickly return under the Government of its legitimate Sovereign, in the certainty that the distinguished qualities which adorn his person, and the perfect knowledge which he possesses of the affairs of that island, will facilitate and expedite the negotiations.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE CARIATI.

No. 366.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 19, 1849.)

My Lord,

Naples, December 31, 1848.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing to your Lordship copies of the notes which were addressed by myself and M. de Rayneval, the French Minister, to Prince Cariati, in reply to his notes of the 19th and 21st instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 366.

The Hon. W. Temple to Prince Cariati.

Prince,

Naples, December 29, 1848.

I HAVE received the note your Excellency did me the honour to address to me on the 19th instant, respecting the affairs of Sicily, in which your Excellency informs me that the ideas of His Sicilian Majesty are directly opposed to

the opinion which I was instructed by my Government to express respecting the formation of a regular Sicilian army.

I sincerely deplore this want of agreement upon a point of such essential importance for the re-establishment of confidence and tranquillity in Sicily.

The reasons which have led the Governments of Great Britain and France to form the opinion in question are so numerous and weighty, that when they are more fully developed and placed under the consideration of the Government of His Sicilian Majesty, I trust they will meet with all the attention and appreciation which they deserve.

A large Neapolitan force in Sicily would be a most legitimate object of fear to the Sicilians, who would always imagine that such a force would be employed to overthrow their Constitution and to deprive them of their legal rights, while a small force would be of no use to the King, but would be to the Sicilians a continual source of irritation and a memorial of the calamities which Sicily has lately suffered, and would therefore keep incessantly alive jealousy and resentment, which it is doubtless the desire as well as the interest of His Majesty to efface.

In short the Sicilians would meet the proposal by asking what security they would enjoy for the preservation of their Constitution if their country were occupied by a military force altogether independent of that Constitution, and which at any moment would have the power of closing the Chambers, and placing the island or any part of it under martial law, and they would feel that in that case the only result of the suspension of arms would have been to enable the Neapolitan forces to take possession of Sicily without opposition, and to deliver the Sicilians into the power of troops highly exasperated against them by the previous conflicts in which they had lately been engaged.

The only chance then of restoring confidence and amicable feeling between the two parties, without which no arrangement could be durable, would be to avoid, for the present at least, bringing the Neapolitan soldiery and the Sicilian population into contact.

If a peaceful arrangement were effected between the two parties, the necessity of an army for defence against foreign aggression would scarcely exist, as all the Great Powers would view with satisfaction so happy a settlement, and would not see with indifference the attempt of any smaller foreign Power to disturb it.

The principal purpose therefore for which an armed force might be required would be the maintenance of internal tranquillity. This object is in a great degree already provided for by the civic guard, which has preserved order very efficiently in the towns, and by the establishment of the Capitani d'armi, to whose charge the security of the country has been confided.

A comparatively small number of men selected by His Sicilian Majesty among his Sicilian subjects, and organized in such a manner as he might judge most conducive to the purpose, might assist and support the above-mentioned corps in the performance of their duties, thus obviating the supposed necessity of introducing Neapolitan troops into Sicily, and avoiding the difficulty and expense of organizing a large regular army in a country where the conscription is not established by law.

It would be most desirable that the Government of His Sicilian Majesty should take into serious consideration the means of devising some arrangement upon the question which may be calculated to remove one of the chief obstacles to the re-establishment of amicable relations with Sicily.

Your Excellency proceeds to ask me whether, supposing that the Governments of England and France were previously agreed with that of Naples upon the conditions to be offered to the Sicilians, they would be prepared to enforce this acceptance of their conditions by having recourse to the same menace of coercion which had been made use of for establishing a suspension of hostilities. Your Excellency appears to consider that in consequence of the attitude taken by the Capitani Kohb and Nonay towards the Neapolitan forces at the time when the suspension of hostilities was established, the two Governments would in that case be under the obligation of employing force against the Sicilians. But I cannot agree in that opinion, for the same attitude was assumed, and the same menaces of coercion were equally used towards the Sicilians in case they continued to carry on hostilities.

It does not follow therefore that it is the duty or even the right of the two Governments to employ force against either party so long as they continue to respect the armistice, the object of the two Admirals having been to stop the effusion of blood and not to shed it.

The Governments of Great Britain and France deeply deplored the calamities which a renewal of hostilities in Sicily was inevitably calculated to produce, but they did not deem the case to be one which justified a forcible interference on their part to prevent the King of Naples from employing the means at his command for re-establishing his authority in Sicily.

The expedition therefore sailed, and the operations of the Neapolitan troops against Messina were begun and carried on without interruption, and if hostilities had been conducted according to the usual practices of civilized nations, and had the attacks been solely directed against armed opponents instead of being equally aimed at the extermination of the unresisting and helpless inhabitants, the Naval Commanders would no doubt have continued to preserve their neutral position.

But the barbarities committed at Messina revolted the feelings of the British and French Admirals; and unable to stand by and remain passive spectators of such scenes as were then enacting, those officers took upon themselves the responsibility of calling upon the contending parties to establish a suspension of hostilities with a view to negotiation under the auspices of their two Governments; such armistice to last until it was known that their act would be sanctioned by their Governments.

Both the British and French Governments have felt that they could not do otherwise than confirm the steps taken by the Naval Commanders, and consider it therefore to be absolutely necessary that the armistice should remain in force while the negotiations may be going on, and until further instructions are received from them upon the subject.

The influence which the Representatives of the two Powers may be able to exert upon the Sicilians must entirely depend upon the nature of the conditions which they may be empowered by the Neapolitan Government to propose at Palermo. If these conditions were insufficient they could not hope that their influence could be exerted with success; but if they were enabled to offer such terms as would afford satisfactory guarantees to the Sicilians for securing to them all that their reasonable and legitimate interests may require, the two Representatives would then feel authorized to use all their influence in pressing the acceptance of such conditions, but not to have recourse to coercive measures for that purpose; and in the event of failure it would remain for their respective Governments to decide what further steps should then be taken for the attainment of the object which they have in view.

Your Excellency in concluding your note asks me whether I should entertain any objection to the Duc de Rivas taking a part in the conferences which may be held. He claims to do so on account of the eventual rights of the reigning dynasty of Spain to the Throne of the Two Sicilies, as Spain, in consequence of those rights, would not consent to His Sicilian Majesty separating the Crown of Sicily from that of Naples.

Now the object for which I have been instructed to offer, in conjunction with the Minister of France, my good offices to the Neapolitan Government, is to concert an arrangement for securing the Crown of Sicily to His Majesty and his dynasty; and so far from there being a question of dismembering the monarchy, we are instructed to use our best endeavours to keep the Two Sicilies under the same Crown.

It may be observed also that the Salic Law being still in force at Naples the eventual rights of succession upon which the Spanish Government grounds its claim for its interference are of such distant and doubtful application, that it is difficult to discover in them any well-founded motive for pressing that claim.

My instructions authorize me to act only in concert with the Representative of France in my endeavours to bring about an amicable arrangement between His Sicilian Majesty and the Sicilians, as our Governments are entirely agreed upon that subject, so that I could not enter into official communication relating to this question with the Representative of any other Government without referring to my Court for further instructions: and this would be more especially necessary in the present case, as although personally entertaining the highest

esteem for the Duc de Rivus, I could not take upon myself without the special orders of my Government to enter into official communication with him, while the diplomatic relations between our two Governments are broken of.

Having thus replied to the different questions contained in your Excellency's note, I avail, &c.

(Signed) WM. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 366.

The Hon. W. Temple to Prince Cariati.

Prince,

Naples, December 30, 1848.

I HAVE received the note of the 21st instant, in which your Excellency does me the honour to inform me that His Sicilian Majesty, accepting the offer of the good offices of England and France, the object of which is to settle the Sicilian Question in an amicable manner, has appointed his Excellency the Lieutenant-General Prince Satriano to carry on the negotiation in his name, and that His Majesty also expresses a desire that the Ambassador of Spain and Minister of Russia should take part in the conferences.

I request your Excellency to accept my thanks for this communication, and in expressing my regret that I shall not have the advantage of treating directly with your Excellency, I beg to assure you of my satisfaction that the choice of His Majesty should have fallen upon Prince Satriano, who from his eminent qualities and intimate knowledge of Sicilian affairs may so powerfully contribute to the successful result of the negotiation.

With respect to the desire which His Majesty has expressed that the Representatives of Spain and Russia should intervene, I can but refer your Excellency to the observations which I had the honour to make in my note of the 29th instant.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) WM. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 366.

M. de Rayneval to Prince Cariati.

Prince,

Naples, 29 Décembre, 1848.

J'AI reçu la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser sous la date du 19 de ce mois au sujet des affaires de Sicile.

Votre Excellence me fait connaître que les idées du Roi sont en opposition avec celles que mon Gouvernement m'a chargé d'émettre au sujet de la formation d'une armée régulière en Sicile. Je regrette bien vivement ce désaccord. L'opinion des deux Gouvernemens de France et d'Angleterre est fondée sur des motifs nombreux et puissans, dont votre Excellence, lorsque j'aurai occasion de les lui développer, appréciera, je l'espère, toute la valeur.

Le principal argument du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Sicilienne contre la séparation des armées, est l'extrême difficulté de trouver des soldats en Sicile. Evidemment la même difficulté existerait pour former une armée commune. Il s'ensuivrait qu'au commencement l'armée commune serait exclusivement Napolitaine, et que, parvint-on plus tard à y introduire l'élément Sicilien dans la proportion des deux populations, elle resterait toujours aux trois-quarts Napolitaine. Il s'agirait donc en fait de dire aux Siciliens : " Vous aurez beaucoup de liberté et de garanties, mais ces libertés et ces garanties seront confiées à la garde de ceux contre lesquels vous avez combattu pour les obtenir, de ceux-là même contre lesquels depuis bientôt une année vous soutenez une guerre continue." Que cette combinaison d'une armée commune avec l'élément Napolitain prédominant soit possible plus tard, lorsque les deux peuples auront oublié, par quelques années de bons rapports, leurs anciennes haines, qu'elle ait lieu d'un commun accord, rien de mieux assurément pour la plus grande sécurité des deux pays ; mais à l'heure qu'il est, au milieu des passions déchaînées et des haines ardentes, il a semblé aux deux Gouvernemens que le principe de l'armée commune était d'une application excessivement difficile, excessivement dangereuse,

comme occasion permanente de froissemens, de soulèvemens, et qu'ils auraient grande peine à ne pas tenir compte des refus péremptoires que sans aucun doute leur opposeraient sur ce point les Siciliens.

Les deux Puissances se sont interposées pour obtenir une suspension d'hostilités; pourraient-elles, comme premier effet de leurs bons offices, commencer par livrer la Sicile entière à l'armée qui la menace, à une armée qui a des injures à venger, et contre laquelle de récents événemens ont soulevé tant de haines?

Il s'agit beaucoup moins de la défense du territoire que du maintien de l'ordre. Ne serait-il point, je ne dirai pas facile, mais très possible, d'assurer l'exécution des lois, la protection des personnes et des propriétés, sans qu'il fût besoin d'une armée proprement dite? Ne pourrait-on pas combiner un ensemble de mesures présentant sous ce rapport de suffisantes garanties? Je désirais bien vivement que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Sicilienne s'attachât à résoudre le problème dans ce sens. Sa longue expérience des affaires Siciliennes, guidée par les inspirations de son esprit de sagesse et de conciliation, le conduirait certainement à ce but.

Votre Excellence me fait l'honneur de me demander si l'action que les deux Puissances se proposent d'exercer en Sicile irait jusqu'à user de coercition. Votre Excellence paraît croire que l'attitude prise par les Commandans Nonny et Robb au moment de la suspension des hostilités aurait imposé aux deux Gouvernemens l'obligation d'employer leurs forces contre les Siciliens. Je ne saurais partager cette manière de voir. Les deux Amiraux ont cru devoir arrêter l'effusion du sang sous leur responsabilité personnelle. Les deux Gouvernemens qui n'avaient aucune intention de mettre obstacle à l'expédition de Sa Majesté Sicilienne ont approuvé la détermination des Amiraux, détermination provoquée, non par l'expédition en elle-même, mais par les circonstances qui l'ont accompagnée. En recommandant aux Amiraux de conserver leur attitude jusqu'à nouvel ordre, et tant que duraient les négociations, les deux Gouvernemens, en ce qui concerne les Siciliens, se sont uniquement engagé à faire en sorte qu'ils respectent l'armistice; par conséquent, tant que l'armistice sera respecté, loin de s'être imposé le devoir d'user de violence envers les Siciliens, les deux Gouvernemens s'en seraient plutôt ôté le droit.

L'action des deux Puissances sur les Siciliens sera nécessairement proportionnée à la nature des conditions que les deux Représentans pourraient être dans le cas de porter à Palerme.

Elle sera restreinte si les conditions sont insuffisantes. Si au contraire les conditions donnent des garanties positives aux intérêts réels et légitimes des Siciliens, les deux Puissances seront par là même autorisées à user de toute l'influence dont elles peuvent disposer. Mais leur action ne saurait aller jusqu'à l'emploi de la force. Dans le cas où les Siciliens repousseraient de sages conseils, les deux Puissances aviseraient aux mesures que les circonstances rendraient nécessaires pour atteindre le but qu'elles se sont proposé.

Votre Excellence en terminant, me demande si j'aurais objection à ce que M. l'Ambassadeur d'Espagne prît part aux conférences qui pourraient s'ouvrir.

J'ai trop d'estime pour le caractère, trop de confiance dans les lumières de M. le Duc de Rivas, les relations des Gouvernemens de France et d'Espagne sont trop amicales, pour que je ne fusse pas personnellement heureux d'entrer avec lui en relations officielles au sujet des affaires Siciliennes, mais je ne puis me dispenser de présenter à ce sujet quelques observations. Mes pouvoirs m'autorisent à agir conjointement avec le Représentant de la Grande Bretagne, parceque les deux Cabinets de Paris et de Londres se sont mis d'accord sur le but à atteindre et sur les moyens à employer. Il n'en est pas de même en ce qui concerne toute autre Puissance. J'ignore complètement quelles pourraient être les intentions de l'Espagne; j'ignore également s'il y a eu accord préalable, au sujet de la Sicile, entre l'Espagne et la France; je n'ai d'ailleurs par devers moi aucune autorisation d'agir conjointement avec le Représentant de Sa Majesté Catholique, et par conséquent je ne pourrais le faire qu'après avoir sollicité et obtenu de mon Gouvernement des instructions et une autorisation spéciale.

Votre Excellence donne comme motif de la participation de M. le Duc de Rivas l'intérêt que la maison d'Espagne, en conséquence de ses droits éventuels de succession, doit prendre au maintien de l'intégrité de la monarchie des Deux Siciles. Mais il s'agit justement de rétablir, d'assurer cette intégrité; nous avons ordre d'y consacrer tous nos efforts.

Il n'y a rien là qui puisse inquiéter l'Espagne. En tous cas, la Loi Salique étant toujours en vigueur à Naples, les droits de succession que ferait valoir le Gouvernement Espagnol sont d'une application tellement lointaine et douteuse qu'il est difficile d'y trouver un motif déterminant.

Croyant avoir ainsi répondu aux différentes questions posées par votre Excellence, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) RAYNEVAL.

(Translation.)

Prince,

Naples, December 29, 1848.

I HAVE received the note which your Excellency has done me the honour to address to me under date of the 19th of this month, on the subject of the affairs of Sicily.

Your Excellency makes known to me that the ideas of the King are in opposition to those which my Government has charged me to put forth on the subject of the formation of a regular army in Sicily. I regret much this disagreement. The opinion of the two Governments of France and of England is founded upon numerous and powerful motives, of which your Excellency will, when I shall have an opportunity of explaining them, I hope appreciate the full value.

The principal argument of His Sicilian Majesty against the separation of the armies, is the extreme difficulty of finding soldiers in Sicily. The same difficulty would evidently exist in forming a common army. It would follow that at the outset the common army would be exclusively Neapolitan, and that if it should be possible later to introduce into it the Sicilian element, in the proportion of the two populations, three quarters of it would always remain Neapolitan. It would in fact amount to saying to the Sicilians, "you shall have great liberty and guarantees, but those liberties and guarantees will be entrusted to the guardianship of those against whom you have fought to obtain them, and of those against whom for a period soon amounting to a year, you have been waging continual war." Could such a combination of a common army with a Neapolitan element become possible later, when the two nations shall have forgotten during some years of good understanding, their ancient animosities, and could it take place by mutual agreement, nothing assuredly could be better for the greatest safety of the two countries; but at the present moment, in the midst of passions let loose, and violent animosities, it has seemed to the two Governments that the principle of a common army, was one of exceedingly difficult application, was exceedingly dangerous as giving a continual opportunity for irritation and disturbances; and that they would have great difficulty in not taking into account the peremptory refusal which the Sicilians would without any doubt oppose on this point.

The two Powers have interposed in order to obtain a suspension of hostilities; could they, as the first effect of their good offices, begin by giving up the whole of Sicily to the army which threatens it, to an army which has injuries to avenge, and against which late events have excited so much hatred.

The matter concerns much less the defence of the territory than the maintenance of order. Would it not be, I will not say easy, but very possible, to secure the execution of the laws, the protection of persons and of property, without requiring any army properly so called? Would it not be possible to combine a system of measures which would afford sufficient guarantees in this respect? I would very much wish that the Government of His Sicilian Majesty would apply itself to resolving the problem in that sense. Its long experience of Sicilian affairs, guided by the inspiration of its notions of what is wise and conciliatory, would certainly guide it in that direction.

Your Excellency does me the honour to ask me whether the action which the two Powers propose to themselves to exert in Sicily, would extend to the employment of coercion. Your Excellency seems to believe that the attitude taken by Commanders Nonay and Rohb at the moment of the suspension of hostilities, has imposed upon the two Governments an obligation to employ their forces against the Sicilians. I cannot partake of this view. The two Admirals conceived it to be their duty to stop the shedding of blood on their own responsibility. The two Governments, who had no intention to place any obstacle in the way of the expedition of His Sicilian Majesty, have approved the decision of

the Admirals; a decision called forth not by the expedition itself, hut by the circumstances which accompanied it. While recommending the Admirals to preserve the attitude taken by them until fresh orders, and whilst the negotiations lasted, the two Governments, so far as the Sicilians were concerned, only engaged that they should respect the armistice; and consequently, as long as the armistice shall be respected, far from having imposed upon themselves the duty of using violence towards the Sicilians, the two Governments would have rather deprived themselves of the right.

The action of the two Powers upon the Sicilians will necessarily be proportioned to the nature of the conditions which the two Representatives may be enabled to carry to Palermo.

It will be confined, if the conditions are insufficient. If on the contrary the conditions afford positive guarantees for the real and legitimate interests of the Sicilians, the two Powers will by that very fact be authorized to use all the influence at their disposal. But their action cannot go so far as the employment of force. In the case of the Sicilians refusing wise councils, the two Powers would consider of the measures which the circumstances might render necessary for attaining the end which they have proposed to themselves.

Your Excellency in conclusion asks me whether I would object to the Spanish Ambassador's taking part in the conferences which might be opened.

I have too much esteem for the character, too much confidence in the acquirements of M. le Duc de Rivas, the relations between the Governments of France and of Spain are too friendly, for me personally not to rejoice at entering with him into official relations on the subject of Sicilian affairs, but I cannot avoid making some observations on this subject. My powers authorize me to act conjointly with the Representative of Great Britain, because the two Cabinets of Paris and of London have concerted together as to the end which is to be attained and the means to be employed. It is not the same as regards any other Power. I am entirely ignorant what might be the intentions of Spain; I am equally ignorant whether there has been previous concert on the subject of Sicily, between Spain and France; besides this I have not before me any authority to act conjointly with the Representative of His Catholic Majesty, and consequently I could not do so without having asked and obtained from my Government instructions and special authority.

Your Excellency gives as a reason for the participation of M. le Duc de Rivas, the interest which the House of Spain, in consequence of its eventual rights of succession, must take in the maintenance of the integrity of the Monarchy of the Two Sicilies. But the question is in fact to restore and to secure that integrity: we are instructed to employ all our efforts with that view.

There is nothing in that which should cause anxiety to Spain. At all events, the Salic Law being always in force at Naples, the rights of succession which the Spanish Government would represent, are of so distant and doubtful an application, that it would be difficult to find in them conclusive grounds.

Believing that I have thus answered the various questions put to me by your Excellency,

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAYNEVAL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 366.

M. de Rayneval to Prince Cariati.

Prince,

Naples, 30 Décembre, 1848.

PAR sa note en date du 21 de ce mois votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'annoncer que le Roi, acceptant les bons offices de la France et de l'Angleterre, dans le but de résoudre amiablement la Question Sicilienne, a désigné comme devant négocier en son nom, son Excellence M. le Lieutenant-Général Prince de Satriano. Sa Majesté désire que M. l'Ambassadeur d'Espagne et M. le Ministre de Russie prennent part aux pourparlers qui auront lieu.

Je ne veux pas tarder à remercier votre Excellence de cette communication. Tout en lui exprimant le regret de n'avoir pas à traiter directement avec elle,

je ne saurais trop me féliciter du choix qu'a fait le Roi. M. le Prince de Satriano, par les qualités qui le distinguent à un degré si éminent, et par sa connaissance approfondie des affaires de Sicile pourra puissamment contribuer au succès des négociations.

Quant à l'intervention des deux Ambassadeurs étrangers je ne puis que m'en référer aux considérations que j'ai eu l'honneur de présenter à votre Excellence dans ma dernière note. Si Sa Majesté jugeait à propos d'insister, je ne perdrais pas un moment à solliciter de mon Gouvernement l'autorisation qui m'est nécessaire pour entrer au sujet des affaires de Sicile en relations officielles avec le Représentant de tout autre Gouvernement que celui de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RAYNEVAL.

(Translation.)

Prince,

Naples, December 30, 1848.

BY your note dated the 21st of this month, your Excellency has done me the honour to announce that the King, accepting the good offices of France and of England, with a view to bring the Sicilian Question to a friendly settlement, has appointed to negotiate in his name his Excellency M. le Lieutenant-General Prince de Satriano. His Majesty desires that the Spanish Ambassador and the Minister of Russia may take part in the conferences which shall take place.

I cannot delay thanking your Excellency for this communication. While expressing my regret at not having to treat directly with you, I cannot too much congratulate myself on the choice which the King has made. The Prince de Satriano, by the qualities which so eminently distinguish him, and by his profound acquaintance with Sicilian affairs, will be able powerfully to contribute to the success of the negotiations.

As regards the intervention of the two foreign Ambassadors, I can only refer to the considerations which I have had the honour to offer to your Excellency in my last note. If His Majesty thinks fit to insist upon it, I will not lose a moment in asking from my Government the authority which is necessary for me in order to enter on the subject of Sicilian affairs into official relations with the Representative of any Government except that of Her Britannic Majesty.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) RAYNEVAL.

No. 367.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 19.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 5, 1849.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship copy of the last reports which have reached me from Mr. Consul Goodwin, by which your Lordship will learn that the efforts of the Radical party at Palermo to displace the present Administration have been defeated.

The project of a French loan having been frustrated, the Government have had recourse to the expedient of a forced imposition on the whole island, of which the sum apportioned to the capital has been levied without much difficulty.

Her Majesty's Consul acquaints me that the parties involved in the late abduction and detention of two British subjects near Marsala have been arrested and sentenced to punishment proportioned to their guilt.

The attention of the Sicilian Government is stated to be principally directed to the incorporation of a regular armed force.

The last accounts from Messina report some slight disorder upon the limits of the neutral territory near Barcellona, which the public voice magnified into a serious conflict, but there has been on either side an accumulation of force

towards that frontier which might, if persevered in, endanger the maintenance of the armistice, and which engages the attention of the officers commanding the British and French ships of war on that station.

General Filangieri has not yet returned from Messina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 367.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Palermo, November 29, 1849.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of 25th November, stating that your Lordship does not think it desirable that steps should be taken to make the proposed basis known to the Parliament and the public, but giving me leave to remove any errors that may be entertained by influential persons as to the character of the concerted terms; thus left to my discretion I have resolved not to stir a step until I hear from Mr. Temple and receive precise instructions.

I have accordingly kept aloof from the Parliament and the public offices, and remained at home an attentive observer of passing events, the features of which are carefully delineated by confidential friends.

It appears to me, my Lord, that the plan of adjustment may be effected, provided care be taken not to force it on the Sicilian people. Their financial difficulties will I think compel them to accept the King in the long run, how much sooner they may be averse to doing so at present. The payment of the first instalment on the 5th December becomes every day more and more doubtful, and the steps which are taking to obtain a substitute in the shape of a forced loan from the Sicilian public, promise little good. 100,000 ounces may perhaps be raised in Palermo, but to raise as much more in the interior will be a difficult task; a week or ten days will show clearly how far these calculations are correct.

The course which Ministers will adopt in bringing the ultimatum before the public is still uncertain. It is probable that they will lay it on the table without saying a word either for or against it, and leave the Chambers to determine as they may see fit. A call of both Chambers within fifteen days from the 22nd instant seems to point to such a result.

Yesterday, Ministers, offended it is said at the appointment by the Commons of a mixed committee to controul the expenditure of the War Office, offered to resign, but satisfactory assurances have since induced them to retain their places.

Inclosure 2 in No. 367.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Palermo, December 18, 1848.

A SERIOUS affair has lately taken place, the result of which places the Government as a dispenser of justice in a favourable light.

About the end of October last, Mr. Barlow, a retired merchant, and Mr. Alison, an accountant of Marsala, were seized on their return from the country and carried to a lone house where they were kept prisoners five days, at the end of which time they were ransomed by their friends for 500 oz.

No sooner had the news reached Palermo than the Minister of the Interior took decisive steps to bring the offenders to justice. The miscreants were discovered and tried by a special commission; one of them, an ex-Lieutenant-at-arms, has been condemned to hard labour for life; another to twenty-five years' close imprisonment in irons; two others to nineteen years' imprisonment and a fine of 300 ducats each, or three years more in case of non-payment; two others to six months' imprisonment, and lastly two more, who are to be set at liberty, to give bail for their future conduct.

The Captain-at-arms who is bound to make good the ransom has fled the district, but will not it is thought escape detection, as search is making after him on all sides.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 367.

Consul Goodwin to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Palermo, December 8, 1848.

THE terms of the ultimatum have transpired by degrees through the zeal or indiscretion of the confidants of Ministers, and have become the common subject of conversation. An opinion prevails that they are such as will be rejected by the King, in which case it is thought they will not be proposed to the Sicilians until after some weeks, during which the armistice will remain in force. Palermo is not yet prepared to accept the ultimatum; but some other towns, as Catania and Marsala, are well disposed to that effect.

No certain advice has been received from Paris by the steamer which left Marseilles on the 3rd that the first instalment of the Sicilian loan, net about 100,000 oz., would be paid on the 5th instant when due. Ministers have had recourse to a forced loan, now going through Parliament, of 500,000 oz. to be raised on all the communes in proportion to their wealth and population. This loan is not to take effect unless 100,000 oz., or the estimated produce of Palermo, be previously secured.

The endeavours of this Government to organize an army are strenuous and unrenitted. Nearly fifty officers of all nations have entered or are about to enter the Sicilian service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 367.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

(Extract.)

Palermo, December 16, 1848.

THE French loan having entirely miscarried, Government has had recourse to a forced loan on the country, and has commenced with the capital. A Commission of three Peers and three Deputies has distributed the sum of 105,000 oz., at which Palermo is assessed, among 132 persons, mostly noblemen and merchants, who are required to pay their several contingents on the 17th and 18th instant on pain of being arrested on the 19th, in case of default. Many of them have already come forward to pay down their money, and others have declared themselves ready to meet the approaching call. One person has had his name put down for 18,000 oz., and has promised 6000 oz. more within six months, if needful. The whole amount of 105,000 oz. will probably be raised in Palermo, but doubts are entertained whether the remaining 400,000 oz. will be collected in the provinces. The land-tax is paid regularly and cheerfully, and out of it Government defrays its daily expenses.

18th December. The Chamber of Deputies has passed a decree proposed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the adhesion of Sicily to the *Costituente Italiana*, after a long discussion, in which two amendments were proposed and rejected.

Inclosure 5 in No. 367.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

(Extract.)

Palermo, December 31, 1848.

A POLITICAL crisis is over. The Min's ry, assailed by faction, resigned their seals on Wednesday, and resumed them on Friday, to the public delight.

The sitting of the Peers on the 26th instant had been disturbed by some people in the gallery, who, impatient of delay in the enforcement of the loan, called the Peers "traitors," when a scene took place shortly afterwards which led to a crisis. The Minister of War, whose conduct had been impeached in the Commons, having justified himself in a long report since published in the official journal, was answered by several Deputies, who called for his accounts for the last three months, but who met with a ready and satisfactory reply. Notwithstanding this triumph, Ministers thought proper to resign the next day, and men from the opposite ranks were destined to replace them. The new Cabinet was pronounced by the public voice to be not strong enough for the occasion, and by the united Chambers not worthy of confidence. The old Ministers were therefore borne back to office on the shoulders of the people.

An address to the citizens, thanking them for their support and bidding them beware of false friends, has been put forth officially by the restored Ministers.

No. 368.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 19.)

(Extract.)

Naples, January 6, 1849.

THE latest accounts from Palermo which were received yesterday by the French Minister from his Consul, seem to denote that the Sicilians are becoming more disposed to enter into an arrangement with this Government than has hitherto been the case.

The great obstacle to an arrangement is the refusal of the King to grant a separate army to Sicily, and the impossibility of proposing to the Sicilians with any hope of success that they should allow their country to be occupied by Neapolitan troops. Prince Satriano is gone to Messina but is expected to return shortly. During his absence and that of the King at Gaeta no progress can be made in the negotiations.

It has been suggested, that a compromise might possibly be arrived at by allowing a garrison consisting of a certain number of men to occupy Messina and perhaps some other post on the coast opposite Calabria, until His Sicilian Majesty with the concurrence of the Sicilian Chambers shall have decided upon the mode in which the army should be organized.

The Neapolitan troops were in possession of Messina when the armistice was established, and certainly the Sicilians have no means of driving them out.

This occupation would afford a sort of guarantee to the King until the affairs of Sicily became more completely settled. With respect to the occupation of any other place, the reason for asking it is to secure the coast of Calabria from any incursion on the part of the Sicilians.

It would be a great point gained, however, for the Sicilians, if, by allowing one or two places on the eastern side of Sicily to be garrisoned by Neapolitan troops, Palermo and the rest of the island were kept free from them.

No. 369.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 19.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 6, 1849.

I HAVE just received two notes from Prince Cariati of this day's date, the one acknowledging the receipt of the notes which I addressed to his Excellency on the 29th and 30th ultimo, which he informs me he has communicated to

Prince Satriano, who is now in Sicily, but who will shortly return to Naples and resume the negotiations relative to the Sicilian Question; and the other inclosing the copy of a note which Count Chreptowitch, the Russian Envoy, had addressed to his Excellency, explaining the reasons which induce him to decline taking any part in the negotiations which may be carried on for arranging the affairs of Sicily, and expressing his surprise that Prince Cariati should have demanded of the Representatives of England and France that he should be admitted to take part in their conferences without his Excellency having previously consulted him on the subject.

Copies and translations of these notes are herewith transmitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 369.

Prince Cariati to the Hon. W. Temple.

Napoli, il 6 Gennaio, 1849.

IL Sottoscritto, Ministro Segretario di Stato degli Affari Esteri, &c., a ricevuto le note di sua Eccellenza il Cavaliere Temple, &c., in data del 29 e 30 scorso mese ed anno, intorno alla vertenza Siciliana, e si è affrettato d'inviarne le copie a sua Eccellenza il Tenente-Generale Principe di Satriano, che trovasi presentemente in Messina, di dove per altro ritornerà quanto prima in questa capitale. Al suo arrivo non mancherà al certo di porsi sollecitamente in comunicazione col Signor Cavaliere Temple a seconda della facoltà concedutegli per tal particolare da Sua Maestà il Rè.

Profitta &c.

(Firmato)

PCE. DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, January 6, 1849.

THE Undersigned, &c., has received the notes of December 29th and 30th, addressed to him by his Excellency Mr. Temple, &c., respecting the Sicilian question, and he hastened to send copies of them to his Excellency Lieutenant-General the Prince of Satriano, who is at this moment at Messina, from whence however he will shortly return to this capital.

Upon his arrival he will not fail to place himself immediately in communication with Mr. Temple, according to the powers which he has received for that purpose from His Majesty the King.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE OF CARIATI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 369.

Prince Cariati to the Hon. W. Temple.

Napoli, 6 Gennaio, 1849.

ESSENDO giunto a cognizione del Signor Conte di Chreptowitch, Inviato Straordinario di Sua Maestà l'Imperatore di tutte le Russie presso Sua Maestà il Rè, il desiderio dalla Maestà Sua manifestato che intervenisse e prendesse parte alle discussioni che potrebbero aver luogo con le loro Eccellenze i Signori Inviati d'Inghilterra e di Francia intorno alla vertenza Siciliana, il suddetto Signor Conte, con nota in data del 26 dello scorso mese ed anno, a esposto al Sottoscritto Ministro Segretario di Stato Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri, i motivi in forza de' quali non stima dovere aderire a siffatta richiesta.

Il Sottoscritto ha l'onore di rimettere qui unito copia della detta nota dell' Inviato di Russia a sua Eccellenza il Signor Cavaliere Temple, &c., per la intelligenza del Governo della Maestà Sua, e profitta &c.

(Firmato)

PCE. DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, January 6, 1849.

COUNT CHREPTOWITCH, &c., having been made acquainted with the wish expressed by His Majesty the King that he should assist at and take part in the conferences which may be held with their Excellencies the Envoys of England and France respecting the Sicilian Question, has explained to the Undersigned, &c., in a note of December 26th of last year, the reasons for which he does not think it his duty to comply with that request.

The Undersigned has the honour to transmit herewith copy of the said note from the Russian Envoy to his Excellency Mr. Temple, &c., for the information of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, and avails himself, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE OF CARIATI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 369.

*Count Chreptowitch to Prince Cariati.**Naples, ce 26 Décembre, 1848.*

CE n'est pas sans un sentiment de surprise que le Soussigné, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, a pris connaissance de la teneur d'une note en date du 21 Décembre courant, adressée aux Représentans de France et d'Angleterre par son Excellence M. le Prince de Cariati, &c., communication qui renferme le passage suivant :— " Que Sa Majesté le Roi en acceptant les bons offices des Cabinets de France et d'Angleterre pour amener, s'il est possible, la pacification de la Sicile, ne peut se dispenser de demander que l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Catholique et le Ministre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies près Sa Majesté le Roi, en leur qualité de Représentans de Puissances avec lesquelles subsistent les liens les plus étroits de parenté et d'amitié, et qui sont signataires et garantes des Traités de 1815 qui assurent à la dynastie heureusement régnante la possession et l'intégrité de la Monarchie des Deux Siciles, interviennent et prennent part aux discussions qui vont s'ouvrir."

Le Soussigné n'ayant reçu jusqu'ici de la part de son Excellence M. le Prince de Cariati aucune invitation officielle, ni directe, de coopérer à la médiation officieuse tendant à amener la solution de la Question Sicilienne, déclare d'avance qu'il ne saurait nullement admettre les conséquences qu'on pourrait aisément faire découler de sa coopération à l'œuvre de cette médiation, et que le soin tout particulier avec lequel le Soussigné s'est attaché à se placer sur une ligne qui ne fût pas la même que celle suivie par les Ministres de France et d'Angleterre dans la Question Sicilienne, ne peut assurément pas avoir échappé à la pénétration de son Excellence M. le Président du Conseil des Ministres. En effet nulle autorité militaire Russe, ni commandant de forces navales Russes, n'ayant assumé la responsabilité d'arrêter les progrès des armes de Sa Majesté Sicilienne dans l'exercice des droits incontestables de souveraineté, il s'ensuit que le Soussigné de son côté s'abstiendra d'encourir une responsabilité à laquelle les agens de son Gouvernement sont heureusement restés étrangers. Il se maintiendra à plus forte raison dans cette ligne de conduite qui lui a été formellement tracée par le Cabinet Impérial, aux yeux duquel cette médiation, toute officieuse qu'elle soit, est frappée d'un vice radical et indéfectible, celui d'une obligation non volontaire imposée par la force. En conséquence le Soussigné a plus d'une fois prévenu son Excellence qu'il était de son devoir d'éviter de s'associer à des tentatives de pacification dont le Gouvernement Impérial réprovoie le principe, du moment où il ne se concilie pas avec le respect qu'on doit à toute Puissance indépendante.

En rappelant à son Excellence les entretiens qu'à différentes reprises ils ont eu à ce sujet, le Soussigné prend la liberté de lui prier de vouloir bien faire connaître également aux Représentans de France et d'Angleterre les motifs sérieux qui l'ont engagé à persister, comme par le passé, dans l'attitude qu'il a prise dès le début de la Question Sicilienne.

Le Soussigné, &c.

(Signé)

COMTE CHREPTOWITCH.

(Translation.)

Naples, December 26, 1848.

IT is not without a feeling of surprise that the Undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, has become acquainted with the tenor of the note dated the 21st of this month, addressed to the Representatives of France and England by his Excellency Prince Cariati, &c., a communication which contains the following passage:—"That His Majesty the King, whilst accepting the good offices of the Cabinets of France and England to bring about, if possible, the pacification of Sicily, cannot refrain from requiring that the Ambassador of Her Catholic Majesty, and the Minister of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias at the Court of His Majesty the King, in their character of Representatives of Powers with whom the strictest bonds of relationship and friendship exist, and who signed and guaranteed the Treaties of 1815 which secure to the dynasty happily reigning the possession and integrity of the Monarchy of the Two Sicillies, should co-operate and take part in the discussions which are about to commence."

The Undersigned not having received, up to this time, any official or direct invitation to co-operate in the informal mediation tending to bring about the solution of the Sicilian question, declares at once that he can in nowise admit the consequences which might easily be deduced from his co-operation in the business of that mediation, and that the very particular care which the Undersigned has evinced to pursue a line of conduct which was not the same as that followed by the Ministers of France and England in the Sicilian Question, cannot surely have escaped the penetration of his Excellency the President of the Council of Ministers. Indeed, no Russian military authority, nor any commander of Russian naval forces having assumed the responsibility of arresting the progress of the arms of His Sicilian Majesty in the exercise of his indisputable rights of sovereignty, it follows that the Undersigned must for his part refrain from incurring a responsibility to which the agents of his Government have happily remained strangers. He will continue therefore strictly to maintain this line of conduct which has been formally laid down for him by the Imperial Cabinet, in whose opinion this mediation, informal as it is, is stained with one radical and indelible vice, that of an involuntary obligation imposed by force. Consequently the Undersigned has more than once acquainted his Excellency that it was his duty to avoid associating himself with attempts at pacification, the principle of which is disapproved by the Imperial Government immediately that it ceases to be compatible with the respect due to every independent Power.

In reminding his Excellency of the conversations which they have on several occasions had on this subject, the Undersigned takes the liberty of begging him also to acquaint the Representatives of France and England with the weighty motives which have induced him to persevere as formerly, in the attitude which he assumed at the commencement of the Sicilian Question.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

COUNT CHREPTOWITCH.

No. 370.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 23, 1849.

I RECEIVED on the 19th instant and I have laid before the Queen your despatches of the 6th, 23rd, and 31st of December of last year, and your despatches of the 6th instant, reporting your proceedings since your arrival at Naples in regard to the questions pending between the King of Naples and the Sicilians.

I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve your conduct in these matters, and also the notes which in concert with M. de Rayneval you have addressed to the Neapolitan Minister.

There seems to arise out of the correspondence between you and M. de

Rayneval on the one hand, and Prince Cariati on the other, two points in regard to which it is necessary that I should send you instructions.

The first point is the request of the Neapolitan Government that the Spanish Ambassador should be admitted as a party to the negotiation. To this request you and M. de Rayneval were quite right in declining to accede, as there seems to be no adequate reason assigned why Spain should be a party to the negotiation.

Prince Cariati, in requesting that the Spanish Ambassador may be allowed to take part in the negotiation, does not explain in what capacity he wishes that diplomatist to appear, and whether it would be as the Representative of a third mediating Power or as the Representative of a Power interested in the matters to be settled.

If the intention of Prince Cariati is that Spain should be joined to Great Britain and France as a third mediator, the answer would be that the application ought to come from the Spanish Government itself, which should address itself to that effect to the two mediating Powers, and to both of the parties between whom the mediation is taking place. Great Britain and France have offered their good offices to the King of Naples and to the Sicilians with a view to bring about a friendly arrangement of the differences which have arisen between them, and those good offices have been accepted. But before a third Power could be associated with Great Britain and France as mediator, it would be necessary that the Governments of Great Britain and France should be satisfied that such third Power took the same view which they do of the nature of the arrangement to be recommended to the two parties, and it would also be necessary that both of the interested parties should accept the good offices of the third Power, as they already have accepted the good offices of Great Britain and France.

If on the other hand the intention of Prince Cariati is that the Spanish Government should in the person of its Ambassador at Naples be admitted into the negotiation as a party interested in the questions at issue, it may be observed that any reversionary interest which the Royal Family of Spain can have in the succession to the Crown of Sicily must be extremely uncertain and remote, because the Salic Law is in force at Naples and in Sicily, while it is not in force in Spain; and the number of Princes in existence in the Royal House of Naples seems to preclude any apprehension that the male line of that House will become extinct. But moreover it is to be borne in mind that the object of the mediating Powers is to maintain and not to dissolve the connection between the Crowns of Naples and of Sicily, and therefore to protect and not to injure any reversionary rights which the Royal Family of Spain may in this respect possess.

It is also to be observed that the Queen of Spain exercises no authority in Naples or in Sicily, and that the King of Naples does not, as Her Majesty's Government apprehend, consider his sovereign authority within his dominions to be fettered by the necessity of obtaining the previous consent of the Spanish Government to any new laws or arrangements which he may think it expedient to establish therein; and it is not apparent why the concurrence of the Queen of Spain should be requisite for the proposed arrangement with the Sicilians more than it was for the grant of the Constitution to the Kingdom of Naples, or for any other act of sovereign power on the part of the King of Naples. Moreover, when in the early part of last year His Neapolitan Majesty asked for the good offices of the British and French Governments to arrange the differences between himself and the Sicilians, His Neapolitan Majesty made no proposal to associate the Spanish Government in the negotiation, and it is fair to presume therefore that he did not at that time think the association of Spain to be necessary.

These reasons appear to Her Majesty's Government to be conclusive against the admission of the Spanish Ambassador to the negotiation.

The second point is the question whether the military force to be maintained in Sicily should be entirely Sicilian or should consist in part of Neapolitan troops. On this point you will observe to the Neapolitan negotiator that the Sicilian Constitution of 1812 declares that no troops shall be admitted into the island but those for which the consent of the Sicilian Parliament shall have been obtained. The Article in which this is recorded states "Non ostante l'eminente dignità che ha il Rè di Generalissimo, non potrà egli introdurre nè tenere in Sicilia altre truppe e forza qualunque di terra e di mare, se non quelle per le quali ne avrà ottenuto il consenso dal Parlamento." You will say that the

Royal assent was given to this article, though with the following reserve:—*"Salvo le truppe estere, per le quali trovansi stipulati dei trattati;"* an exception which is believed to have applied to the British troops then serving in Sicily. The observance of this Article is a condition which the Sicilians may consider themselves entitled to as a matter of right.

The condition is also one to which the Sicilians may justly attach great importance, because in it they see a security that their Constitution shall not be overthrown by a Neapolitan military force.

Nevertheless the present state of things may afford reasons why the Sicilians ought to consent to a modification of this Article. The Neapolitan troops are in possession of the citadel of Messina and of some other military posts on the east coast of Sicily. From those positions they can only be dislodged by force, and that force the Sicilians are not able to exert. If then the King of Naples would engage to respect in other points the Sicilian Constitution, the Sicilians would act wisely in assenting to a modification on this point, and in consenting that either as a temporary or as a permanent arrangement the citadel of Messina and any other post which might be agreed upon, and which might be opposite to the coast of Calabria, should be occupied by a limited number of Neapolitan troops; and I have to instruct you, in concert with M. de Rayneval, to endeavour to bring the contending parties to agree to some such arrangement.

The King of Naples ought to be content with having a limited force in these positions, because he should remember that the amount of the Sicilian army will be determined by the votes of the Sicilian Parliament; and it is most probable that motives of economy will lead that Parliament to fix the military establishment of the island at as low an amount as may be consistent with the maintenance of public order.

Having thus explained the principle upon which Her Majesty's Government think that this disputed point might be settled, I have to add that Her Majesty's Government leave you a full latitude of discretion to make the best arrangement you can upon this matter in concert with the French Plenipotentiary, and without the necessity of referring again in regard to it to Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 371.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 24.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 14, 1849.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing to your Lordship copies of a correspondence which has taken place between myself, the British Consul at Palermo, and Sir William Parker, relative to the maintenance of the armistice which it was reported here the Sicilians were preparing to infringe. It does not appear however that these reports had any real foundation. Sir William Parker has already sent instructions to Captain Robb by the steamer "*Rosamond*," to ascertain the accuracy of the complaints which have been made by both parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 371.

The Hon. W. Temple to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

Naples, December 29, 1848.

REPORTS have been very prevalent of late at Naples that a corps of Sicilian troops had approached the neutral ground which separates them from the Neapolitan forces with hostile intentions, and it was even here said that an engagement had ensued.

I cannot suppose, however, that there is any truth in these reports, but it may be advisable that you should make known to the Sicilians that the British and French Governments having sanctioned the steps taken by their respective Naval Commanders in establishing a suspension of hostilities between the Neapolitan and Sicilian forces, have instructed their Ministers to be careful to impress upon both parties the absolute necessity of respecting the armistice while the negotiations are going on.

There is no reason to suppose that the Sicilians will feel any desire to break through the armistice, more especially if by doing so they find that they are acting in direct opposition to the wishes of England and France; but should you have any cause to suppose such to be the case you will not fail to represent to them the serious consequences which must ensue from their so doing, as the English and French Admirals are instructed to enforce the armistice in order that the negotiations may be carried on in suitable manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 371.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Palermo, January 4, 1849.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch of the 29th December, 1848, acquainting me that reports had been very prevalent in Naples that a corps of Sicilian troops had approached the neutral ground which separates them from the Neapolitan forces with hostile intentions, and that it was even said that an engagement had ensued; and directing me to make known to the Sicilian Government that the British and French Governments, having sanctioned the steps taken by their respective Naval Commanders to establish a suspension of hostilities between the Neapolitan and Sicilian forces, had instructed their Ministers to impress on both parties the necessity of respecting the armistice while the negotiations were going on.

I have the honour to report to you that your instructions have been followed.

No sooner had I received your despatch than I called on the Marchese Torre Arsa and delivered the communication. The Marchese received it with due attention, said that its purport should be borne in mind, and assured me that the reports in circulation were utterly unfounded.

So far from the Sicilians having attacked the Neapolitans, said the Marchese, it was the Neapolitans who attacked the Sicilians, as would appear from the forthcoming despatch.

The promised despatch of which the inclosed is a copy sets out with saying, that the Sicilian Government which had silently observed many acts of violence committed by the Royal troops in the Neapolitan zone: as for instance in Milazzo, Santa Lucia, Barcellona and Meri, where houses had been broken open and pillaged, and where the brothers, wives, and daughters of such as refused to take office under the Neapolitan Government had been cast into prison, had at length been convinced that its temper and forbearance only provoked further outrages. Official information had been received by this Government of the armistice having been broken on the 30th of December last. On that day the Neapolitans entered the neutral zone, fell upon the villages of Nasari, San Paolo and Acquaficarra, and disarmed the inhabitants, many of whom they arrested. This Government, to which the villages have had recourse, thinks itself bound to beseech the mediating Powers to enforce the observance of the armistice, in order to prevent the renewal of hostilities on the part of the injured peasants. It is therefore desirous that the British and French Admirals should send to the spot a mixed commission of officers, who should be authorized to set the prisoners at liberty and to restore the arms to their owners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. W. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 371.

The Marquis Torre Arsa to Consul Goodwin.

Signor Console,

Palermo, 3 Gennaio, 1849.

IL Governo di Sicilia sente vivamente il bisogno di sottometterle le sue alte doglianze per una nuova e solenne infrazione fatta dalle truppe Napolitane delle condizioni d'armistizio che le due Grandi Potenze hanno promesso di far rispettare.

Noi abbiamo finora assistito in silenzio ai tanti atti di violenza esercitati dalle truppe Regie nella zona da loro occupata; abbiamo veduto in Milazzo, Santa Lucia, Barcellona, Mesi, saccheggiate ed invase case, imprigionati i fratelli, le mogli, fin le vergini figlie di molti onorevoli cittadini, sol perchè si rifiutavano ad accettar cariche ed impieghi del nemico della Sicilia. Abbiamo inteso tutto di questi atti di brutale ferocia, ma li abbiamo dovuto deplorare e tacere.

Oggi però la moderazione nostra sembra che dia ai regii argomento di maggiore tracotanza.

Il Governo ha avuto notizia ufficiale che il giorno 30 dello scorso Dicembre essi hanno infranto l'armistizio invadendo all'improvviso i villaggi di Nasari, San Paolo, Acquaficarra ed altri punti compresi nella linea neutrale. In questi luoghi hanno fatto un disarmo forzoso, arrestando diversi cittadini, fra gli altri il Signor D. Gaetano Pirroni Sollima, proprietario distinto che si trovava colà a villeggiare colla propria famiglia.

La popolazione di quei luoghi è compresa e ben a ragione di altissima indignazione per una violazione così fragrante delle condizioni dell'armistizio, ed il Governo di Sicilia è nel dovere di domandare dalle due Alte Potenze mediatrici la esecuzione dei patti, la cui osservanza essi hanno manifestato di far rispettare; e ciò per non respingere momentaneamente la forza colla forza e non lasciare libero campo all'ira giustissima delle popolazioni di quei luoghi; dando così un nuovo pegno della propria lealtà.

Quindi il Governo Siciliano la prega vivamente, Signor Console, d'interessare l'onorevole Vice-Ammiraglio Sir William Parker, affinché, d'accordo coll' Ammiraglio della Repubblica Francese, una commissione di ufficiali Inglesi e Francesi sia spedita sui luoghi a contestare la verità di quanto io ho l'onore di sottometterle, e far restituire le armi involate, e sopra tutto rimettere in libertà i cittadini arrestati.

Mi permetterò per ultimo di farle riflettere, che mentre dalla parte nostra si è osservato colla più scrupolosa esattezza l'armistizio, benchè a condizioni per noi onerose, il Governo di Napoli lo ha più volte infranto senza tener conto nè delle leggi che regolano ora mai anche durante la guerra la condotta dei popoli civili, nè il torto che con queste violazioni egli fa all' Inghilterra e alla Francia, custodi e garanti di quelle convenzioni. Mentre dall' altro lato con una mala fede, che nel Governo di Napoli è oggi di non storica, ma proverbiale, va dando ad intendere alle Potenze, che siamo noi che rompiamo la tregua.

Le farò tenere copia del processo verbale redatto in Castoreale sui fatti che le ho accennati, e le rinnovo, &c.

(Firmato)

MARCHESE DI TORRE ARSA.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palermo, January 3, 1849.

THE Government of Sicily feels deeply the necessity of bringing under your consideration its strong complaints against a new and glaring violation on the part of the Neapolitan troops of the conditions of the armistice, which the two Great Powers have promised to cause to be respected.

We have hitherto witnessed in silence the many acts of violence perpetrated by the Royal troops within the zone occupied by them. We have seen in Milazzo, Santa Lucia, Barcellona, Mesi, houses broken into and plundered, and the brothers, wives, and even the virgin daughters of many honourable citizens imprisoned, only because they refused to accept office or employment under the enemy of Sicily.

We have heard of all these acts of brutal ferocity, but we could only deplore them and be silent.

Now however it appears that our forbearance only gives rise on the part of the Neapolitan troops to further outrages.

The Government has received official information, that on the 30th of December last the Neapolitans committed a violation of the armistice by attacking all of a sudden the villages of Nasari, San Paolo, Acquafredda, and other points comprised within the neutral line; in these places they effected a forced disarmament and arrested many citizens, amongst others D. Gaetano Pironi Sollima, a distinguished proprietor, who was staying there in the country with his family.

The population of those places feels, and with reason, the highest indignation at so flagrant a violation of the conditions of the armistice, and the Government of Sicily considers it its duty to demand of the two high Mediating Powers the execution of the terms, the observance of which they have asserted they would see respected; and this appeal is made to avoid being obliged at present to repel force by force, or letting loose the just anger of the inhabitants of that district, thus affording on our part a new proof of good faith.

The Sicilian Government therefore earnestly begs you to apply in our behalf to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, in order that in conjunction with the Admiral of the French Republic he may send a commission, composed of English and French officers, to the places themselves, so as to verify the truth of what I have the honour to lay before you and cause the stolen arms to be restored and the prisoners to be set at liberty.

Allow me, lastly, to call your attention to the fact, that whilst on our part the armistice has been observed with the most scrupulous exactness, although the conditions are onerous to us, the Government of Naples has frequently violated it without regard either to the laws which even during war regulate the conduct of civilized nations, or to the insult inflicted by this violation on England and France, the guardians and guaranties of those stipulations; whilst on the other hand with a bad faith which in the Government of Naples is not only historical but proverbial, gives the Powers to understand that it is we that violate the armistice.

I will send you a copy of the *procès-verbal* which was drawn up in Castoreale respecting the facts which I have stated, and I have, &c.

(Signed) MARQUIS OF TORRE ARSA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 371.

The Hon. W. Temple to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

Sir

Naples, January 11, 1849.

IN consequence of the reports which were lately prevalent at Naples that the Sicilian troops had approached the neutral ground apparently with hostile intentions, and that a rupture of the armistice was threatened by them if it had not actually taken place, I wrote to the British Consul at Palermo to desire him, in case there appeared to be any foundation for the reports, to impress upon the Sicilian Government the necessity of respecting the armistice while the negotiations were going on.

I have received a despatch from Mr. Goodwin in reply to my letter, of which I have the honour to inclose you a copy, and I send you also a copy of a communication made to Mr. Goodwin by the Marchese Torreaarsa in consequence of his having informed the Marchese of the contents of my letter.

Your Excellency will see that far from admitting any intention to exist on the part of the Sicilians to violate the armistice, the Marchese complained that the Neapolitan troops themselves have been guilty of a serious violation of the armistice, and requests that a commission consisting of English and French officers should be appointed by your Excellency and by Admiral Baudin for the purpose of examining these complaints upon the spot, and seeing that justice is done to the injured parties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 371.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, January 12, 1849.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of yesterday on the subject of the infringement of the armistice between the Neapolitans and Sicilians.

Captain Baynes of Her Majesty's ship "Bellerophon," on his return from Palermo on the 10th instant, furnished me with similar information to that which Mr. Goodwin has forwarded to your Excellency; and I have prepared a letter to be sent by the first opportunity to Captain Robb of the "Gladiator" at Messina, desiring him to communicate with the senior officer of the French ships of war at that port, and to ascertain the accuracy of the representation of the Marchese Torrecarsa, and if correct what have been the motives of the Neapolitans in this apparent breach of the existing armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. PARKER.

No. 372.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 26, 1849.

ONE of the contractors who is in the habit of supplying the Board of Ordnance with iron guns, applied to that Board some time ago for permission to take back some guns which he had delivered to the Board, on condition that he should replace the guns so taken back by others of a similar description; and he stated that his motive for making the application was, that he might be able to execute sooner than he otherwise could, an order which he had received from the Provisional Government of Sicily for a certain quantity of iron guns; and the Board of Ordnance were authorized to comply with this application.

It is possible that the Neapolitan Government may complain to you of this transaction, on the ground that although no direct assistance was furnished by Her Majesty's Government to the Government of Sicily, yet a facility was afforded to the contractor who had engaged to provide supplies for that Government. If any such representation should be made to you by the Government of Naples, you will say that the authority in question was given inadvertently; that Her Majesty's Government regret what has occurred; and that no similar facility has been given or will be given by Her Majesty's Government, to persons employed in furnishing supplies to the Sicilian Government while the differences between the Sicilians and the King of Naples are unsettled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 373.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 27.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 17, 1849.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the copy of a despatch which I have just received from Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo, giving an account of the festivities which took place in that city on the occasion of the anniversary of the Sicilian Constitution.

Prince Satriano has not yet returned from Messina, and his prolonged absence has prevented the negotiations on the Sicilian affairs being renewed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure in No. 373.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Palermo, January 13, 1849.

THE first anniversary of the Sicilian Revolution was celebrated yesterday with great and general rejoicings. "Te Deum" was sung in the cathedral and the troops were reviewed on the Marina.

Notwithstanding the state of the weather, which was rainy and windy, the multitude of spectators was unusually large. The solemn ceremony in the cathedral was attended by all the civil and military authorities, the Peers and Deputies, the British and French naval officers, and Consular Corps.

The troops of all arms, and the civic and National Guards, were pronounced by military men to look and march well for soldiers of one year's standing.

Some slight disturbances in the interior and in this neighbourhood have terminated with bloodshed, but without remarkable results. News having reached Girgenti that 400 brigands had occupied Aragona, 300 National Guards marched to the latter town, about eight miles from Girgenti, and dispersed the brigands; of eight who were taken prisoners one was shot immediately, and the others were doomed to a similar fate by the sentence of a court-martial. At Bagaria, near this city, three robbers who had shot two soldiers had been taken and put to death by the troops. At Nicosia a party of soldiers on their way from Palermo to the neutral zone, provoked a scuffle with the inhabitants, in which two of the soldiers were killed and three or four wounded, the rest were disarmed and peace was re-established.

A radical demonstration at Catania on the 1st instant was put an end to by Colonel Orsini, who threatened to fire upon the mob in case a Republic were proclaimed instead of the Constitution to which he and his troops had sworn allegiance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

No. 374.

Mr. Waddington to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Whitehall, January 31, 1849.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir George Grey to transmit to you the inclosed copy of a letter from Messrs. White, Broughton and White, Solicitors to the Sicilian Embassy, with the correspondence therein referred to, applying for the aid of the detective police to obtain proof of the precise purpose for which a large steam-frigate called the "Bombay" is being equipped as a vessel of war; and I am to request that you will submit the same to Viscount Palmerston for his information, and acquaint his Lordship that the Commissioners of Metropolitan Police can give the assistance which is required, but Sir George Grey is desirous in the first instance of receiving Lord Palmerston's opinion as to what the Commissioners should be authorized to do.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. WADDINGTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 374.

Messrs. White, Broughton and White to Sir George Grey.

Sir,

12, Great Marlborough Street, January 30, 1849.

IN pursuance of instructions received from his Excellency Prince Castelfidardo, we beg most respectfully to request you will be pleased to give directions to Her Majesty's Commissioners of Police that his Excellency be furnished with

the aid of the detective police for the purpose stated in our letter to the Commissioners of the 25th instant, of which we inclose a copy, together with a copy of the Commissioners' reply.

We have, &c.

(Signed) WHITE, BROUGHTON & WHITE,
Solicitors to the Sicilian Embassy.

Inclosure 2 in No. 374.

Messrs. White, Broughton and White to the Commissioners of Police.

Gentlemen,

12, Great Marlborough Street, January 25, 1849.

WE are instructed by his Excellency Prince Casteleale, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies to the Court of Great Britain, to request the assistance of Her Majesty's Commissioners of Police under the following circumstances:

By the Act of the 59th Geo. III, chap. 69, commonly called the "Foreign Enlistment Act," it is declared by section 7, "that if any person shall without Her Majesty's licence equip, fit out or arm any vessel with the intent or in order that the same shall be employed in the service of any foreign Prince, State, or Potentate, or of any person or persons exercising or assuming to exercise any powers of Government with intent to cruise or commit hostilities against any Prince, State, or Potentate with whom Her Majesty shall not be at war, shall upon conviction be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour and be punished by fine or imprisonment, or either, at the discretion of the Court, and that it shall be lawful for the officers of customs or excise to seize such ship or vessel with her stores, which are declared to be forfeited, as to one moiety to the use of Her Majesty, and as to the other to such persons as shall first sue for the same."

Certain persons having seized the city of Palermo and claimed to carry on the formation of Government there in opposition to their Sovereign the King of the Two Sicilies, with whom Her Majesty is on terms of amity, hostilities have commenced between the parties, and His Sicilian Majesty's troops are now before Palermo. Information has been conveyed to his Excellency Prince Casteleale that a large steam-frigate of 1200 tons, called the "Bombay," now lying in the East India Export Dock at Blackwall, is equipping as a vessel of war with a view of being employed by the insurgents at Palermo against their Sovereign; that her destination is that place can be proved by the testimony of those who are engaged to navigate her thither, and the nature of the vessel herself and of her armament is such as to preclude the notion of her being about to proceed as a mere merchant-vessel for peaceable purposes only. The Commissioners will be aware that to obtain positive proof of the precise object for which the vessel is to be employed when she reaches Palermo may be difficult and unattainable without the aid of the detective police, for which purpose we are instructed to apply and shall be prepared to give the officers appointed a clue to guide their inquiries. As a flagrant breach of the statute law of this country is about to be committed, his Excellency cannot permit himself to doubt that the aid he requests will be readily afforded to him; any expense attending the inquiry we are instructed by his Excellency to defray.

We have, &c.

(Signed) WHITE, BROUGHTON & WHITE,
Solicitors to the Sicilian Embassy.

Inclosure 3 in No. 374.

Colonel Rowan to Messrs. White, Broughton and White.

*Metropolitan Police Office, 4, Whitehall Place,
January 26, 1849.*

Gentlemen,

THE Commissioners of Police of the metropolis beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, stating that you are instructed by his Excellency Prince Casteleale, Envoy Extraordinary from His Majesty the

King of the Two Sicilies to the Court of Great Britain, to request the assistance of the detective police to obtain proof of the precise nature for which a large steam frigate called the "Bombay" is being equipped as a vessel of war.

The Commissioners beg to acquaint you in reply, for the information of Prince Castelcicala, that they have not authority to make the inquiry called for in your letter, and that it will be necessary for the Prince to address the Secretary of State upon the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. ROWAN.

No. 375.

Mr. Addington to Mr. Waddington.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 1, 1849.

I HAVE laid before Viscount Palmerston your letter of yesterday, expressing Sir George Grey's wish to be made acquainted with his Lordship's opinion as to the answer which should be returned to an application from the solicitor of Prince Castelcicala, the Neapolitan Minister in this country, for the assistance of the detective police in order to discover the destination of the steam-vessel "Bombay," now fitting out in the River Thames.

I am to request that you will state to Sir George Grey, with reference to this matter, that it appears to Viscount Palmerston that to allow the Government police to be employed by the agents of a foreign Government to make inquiries connected with the interests of such Government, would be a precedent which might lead to very inconvenient consequences. That assistance which would thus be granted to one Government could not well be refused to another, and the British Government would become liable to be called upon to make its police the political spies of foreign Governments in a way which might be very repugnant to the public feeling in this country.

The request of Prince Castelcicala moreover is one a compliance with which cannot be necessary for his purpose, although it might be a convenience to his solicitor, because his solicitor is surely competent to employ agents of his own to make those inquiries which he wishes the police to make for him.

Viscount Palmerston would suggest therefore that compliance with this application should be declined on the general principle that the police cannot be allowed to become the agents of foreign Governments.

No. 376.

The Hon. R. Abercromby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 1.)

My Lord,

Turin, January 26, 1849.

M. GIOBERTI called upon me yesterday for the purpose of explaining a difficulty that has arisen between the Sardinian and Neapolitan Governments in consequence of the Sardinian Consul-General in London instead of the Consul at Naples having signed the papers of a Sicilian merchant-vessel; and M. Gioberti is anxious by submitting the difficulty in which he is placed to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, to seek through your assistance the means of satisfying at this moment the demands of the Neapolitan Government without prejudice to the interests of the Sicilians.

I replied to M. Gioberti that the best and most regular course for him to adopt was to address to me a note stating the circumstances of the case and the objects which he had in view, and that I would then with pleasure transmit copy of his note to you.

M. Gioberti has in consequence addressed to me a note, copy of which I have now the honour to forward for your Lordship's information and consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RA. ABERCROMBY.

Inclosure in No. 376.

M. Gioberti to the Hon. R. Abercromby.

Monsieur,

Turin, le 24 Janvier, 1849.

LE Consul du Roi à Londres a été autorisé par l'Administration qui a précédé le Ministère actuel à protéger dans le ressort de ses attributions les bâtimens Siciliens dont les capitaines s'adresseraient à lui dans ce but. Cette disposition qui avait été sollicitée par le Gouvernement existant en Sicile était tout-à-fait analogue à la vive sympathie du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté pour les Siciliens, et avait dû être d'autant plus facilement adoptée que nos relations avec le Gouvernement de Naples avaient alors souffert de sensibles atteintes.

Aujourd'hui que nous nous trouvons en voie de rapprochement avec ce dernier Gouvernement, il nous a témoigné le désir de voir cesser une pareille disposition comme incompatible avec la nature des relations qu'il s'agit de rétablir entre les deux Gouvernemens.

Tout en continuant de vouer le plus sincère et le plus vif intérêt aux Siciliens, nous ne pourrions cependant refuser d'acquiescer au désir du Gouvernement Napolitain sans compromettre l'acheminement des rapports plus intimes que les circonstances actuelles nous conseillent de rétablir avec lui. Nous ne voudrions pas d'un autre côté prendre une détermination qui pût être préjudiciable au commerce Sicilien.

Dans cet état de choses nous avons compté sur les dispositions toujours bienveillantes du Gouvernement Britannique à cet égard, et sur la sympathie qu'il a lui-même assez manifestée en faveur de la Sicile, pour concilier ces divers intérêts.

Je dois en conséquence vous prier, Monsieur, de porter cet exposé à la connaissance de votre Gouvernement en même temps que la prière de notre part d'assurer aux bâtimens Siciliens une nouvelle protection consulaire au moment où celle du Consul Sarde à Londres cesserait, du moins officiellement. Dans tous les cas, le Consul du Roi pourrait continuer à prêter officieusement son aide aux bâtimens Siciliens, et s'entendre avec telle autorité Anglaise qui serait chargée de viser les papiers de bord et de remplir les autres formalités officielles nécessaires pour la régularité de la navigation.

Habitué à votre extrême obligeance, j'y ai recours en cette occasion avec la plus entière confiance, et je vous prie d'agréer, &c.

(Signé)

GIOBERTI.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Turin, January 24, 1849.

THE Consul of the King in London was authorized by the Administration which preceded the present Ministry to protect within the sphere of his official functions Sicilian vessels the Captains of which might apply to him for that purpose. This arrangement, which had been solicited by the Government existing in Sicily, was quite in accordance with the lively sympathy of His Majesty for the Sicilians, and could the more easily be adopted as our friendly relations with the Government of Naples had at that time experienced some serious interruptions.

Now that we are in a fair way to be reconciled with the latter Government it has expressed to us its desire to witness the cessation of such an arrangement, as being incompatible with the relations which it is sought to re-establish between the two Governments.

Although continuing to feel the sincerest and most lively interest in the Sicilians, we cannot however refuse to acquiesce in the desire of the Neapolitan Government without compromising the advancement of the more intimate relations which present circumstances counsel us to establish with it. We should not wish on the other hand to take a step which might be injurious to Sicilian commerce.

In this state of things we have relied on the ever-friendly disposition of the Government of Great Britain in this respect, and on the sympathy which that Government has itself sufficiently evinced in favour of Sicily, to reconcile these different interests.

I have consequently, Sir, to request you to bring this statement to the knowledge of your Government, together with the request on our part, that a new Consular protection may be secured to Sicilian vessels, as soon as that of the Sardinian Consul shall cease, at least officially. In any case the Consul of the King might continue to lend his assistance unofficially to Sicilian vessels, and to come to an understanding with whatever English authority might be charged with certifying the ship's papers and executing the other official formalities necessary for the regularity of navigation.

Accustomed to your extreme kindness, I have had recourse to you on this occasion with the fullest confidence, and I beg you &c.,

(Signed) GIOBERTI.

No. 377.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. R. Abercromby.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 5, 1849.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 25th ultimo respecting the wish of the Sardinian Government that some competent authority in England should exercise Consular duties on behalf of the Sicilians, the Neapolitan Government having remonstrated with the Government of Sardinia against the practice which has hitherto existed, and under which those duties have been performed for the Sicilians by the Sardinian Consuls in this country; and I have to state to you in reply that no officers of the British Government in the United Kingdom can perform Consular functions for foreign vessels arriving at or departing from a British port.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 378.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 12.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 28, 1849.

ADMIRAL Sir W. Parker has informed me that he has received a report from Commander Foote, of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Rosamond," stating the result of his visit in company with Captain Le Gras of the French ship "Hercule," to the advanced posts of the Neapolitans and Sicilians to inquire into the complaints recently made by the Marquis Torre Arsa. It appears from Commander Foote's report that no violence has been committed by the Neapolitan troops, although their outposts have been advanced beyond the line of demarcation agreed upon by the existing armistice.

Concluding that Captain Nonay, the senior French officer at Messina, has transmitted to Vice-Admiral Baudin a similar statement, Sir William Parker proposes to communicate with the Vice-Admiral on the subject of respectively addressing the senior English and French officers stationed at Messina, to request that pending the negotiations and while the armistice is in force, the Neapolitan General commanding will give directions to prevent any movements on the part of his troops which are not quite in accordance with the terms of the armistice.

There does not appear therefore to have been any intention on the part of the Neapolitan Commanders to violate the armistice, and the complaints made by the Marquis Torre Arsa seem to have arisen from a question as to whether a village contiguous to one occupied by Neapolitan troops was within or without the line of demarcation which had been agreed upon.

Everything remained tranquil throughout Sicily according to the last accounts.

have, &c.)

(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

No. 379.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 12.)

My Lord,

Naples, January 29, 1849.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship copies of the notes which were addressed by M. de Rayneval and myself to Prince Cariati in answer to his note transmitting to us copies of a note which he had received from the Russian Minister, in which Count Chreptowitch states the reasons which would prevent him taking any part in the negotiations relative to the Sicilian affairs, copies and translations of which were transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch of the 6th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. TEMPLE

Inclosure 1 in No. 379.

M. de Rayneval to Prince Cariati.

Prince,

Naples, 27 Janvier, 1849.

EN accusant réception à votre Excellence de la note qu'elle m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser pour me donner communication des motifs qui ont déterminé M. le Ministre de Russie à se tenir en dehors des négociations relatives à l'affaire Sicilienne, je ne puis me dispenser de faire remarquer à votre Excellence que nous n'avons nullement réclamé la participation de M. le Comte de Chreptowitch, mais qu'au contraire nous avons exposé, Mr. Temple et moi, les motifs qui nous empêchaient d'admettre, en l'absence d'instructions spéciales, les Représentans de toute autre Puissance que la France et l'Angleterre à prendre part aux négociations pendantes.

Quelques unes des observations de M. le Comte de Chreptowitch rentrent dans les nôtres. Pour le reste, il est facile de se convaincre en se reportant aux événemens de l'année 1827, que le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg dans des circonstances analogues, s'est déterminé par sentiment d'humanité, comme l'ont fait aujourd'hui les Cabinets de Paris et de Londres, à intervenir pour éviter l'effusion du sang, pour obtenir un armistice, pour substituer la négociation à la force des armes. Si, comme tout me porte à l'espérer, les bons offices de la France et de l'Angleterre contribuent à rétablir l'union, la paix, et la confiance, entre les deux portions du Royaume des Deux Siciles, je connais trop les sentimens qui animent le Cabinet Impérial de St. Pétersbourg, pour n'être pas certain de le voir d'autant mieux applaudir à ce résultat, qu'il aura été obtenu sans nouveaux désastres.

Veuillez agréer, &c.

(Signé)

A. DE RAYNEVAL.

(Translation.)

Prince,

Naples, January 27, 1849.

IN acknowledging the receipt of the note which your Excellency did me the honour to address to me in order to acquaint me with the motives which have decided the Minister of Russia to hold himself aloof from the negotiations relative to the Sicilian affair, I cannot avoid remarking to your Excellency that we in nowise demanded the co-operation of the Count de Chreptowitch, but that on the contrary Mr. Temple and I explained the reasons which prevented our admitting, in the absence of special instructions, the Representatives of any other Power than France and England to take part in the pending negotiations.

Some of the Count de Chreptowitch's observations are in accordance with ours. As for the rest it is easy to convince oneself by referring to the events of 1827, that the Cabinet of St. Petersburg under similar circumstances resolved from motives of humanity, as the Cabinets of Paris and London have now done, to interpose for the prevention of bloodshed, to obtain an armistice, to substitute

negotiation for the force of arms. If, as everything leads me to hope, the good offices of France and England contribute to re-establish union, peace, and confidence between the two portions of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, I am too well acquainted with the sentiments which animate the Imperial Cabinet of St. Petersburg not to feel assured that it will rejoice the more at such a result from the fact of its having been obtained without fresh disasters.

Have the goodness, &c.

(Signed) A. DE RAYNEVAL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 379.

The Hon. W. Temple to Prince Cariati.

Prince,

Naples, January 28, 1849.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Excellency's note communicating to me a copy of the note of the Minister of Russia, in which his Excellency expresses his surprise that the Government of His Sicilian Majesty should have proposed to the Representatives of England and France that he should be present and assist at the negotiations relating to the affairs of Sicily, without any intimation having been previously made to him upon the subject; and, stating the reasons which would have induced him to decline participating in those negotiations had a proposal to that effect been made to him, begs that these reasons may be made known to M. de Rayneval and to myself.

In acknowledging to your Excellency this communication from Count Chreptowitch, I cannot but observe that neither M. de Rayneval nor myself ever proposed that his Excellency should take part in the negotiations respecting Sicily, but on the contrary we stated the objections and inconvenience which might arise from the intervention of any other Power in these negotiations. As Count Chreptowitch observes, there was no Russian military or naval Commander on the spot at the time to witness and make known to the Russian Government the deplorable scenes which took place at Messina, and the war of extermination which was carried on against private property and defenceless individuals of both sexes, long after all resistance had ceased. Had such however been the case, there can be little doubt but that the same principle of humanity which influenced the conduct of Russia in 1827, would have equally led her Government under analogous circumstances to have again concerted measures with the Governments of England and France for the purpose of stopping the effusion of blood, and by the establishment of an armistice between the contending parties, of endeavouring to arrange their differences by amicable negotiations instead of leaving them to be settled by an appeal to physical force.

If this humane object should be attained by the mediation of England and France, as there is every reason to hope, I doubt not but that the Russian Government would feel highly gratified at so happy a result.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

No. 380.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 13, 1849.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches to that of the 31st ultimo inclusive.

I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the answer which you have returned to Prince Cariati, as inclosed in your despatch of the 29th ultimo, respecting the invitation given by the Neapolitan Government to the Russian Minister at Naples to take part in the mediation between Naples and Sicily in which the Governments of England and France are engaged.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 18.)

(Extract.)

Naples, February 4, 1849.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing to your Lordship copy of a note addressed to me by Prince Satriano from Messina on the 11th ultimo, and also a copy and translation of another note which he addressed to me on the 31st ultimo after his return to Naples, in answer to the notes which I addressed to Prince Cariati on the 29th and 30th of December last, copies of which have been transmitted to your Lordship.

In his first note Prince Satriano states that His Sicilian Majesty considers that the duties imposed upon him by his Crown do not allow him to put in question the form, the extent, or the internal policy of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies without the co-operation and consent of all the Powers who signed the Treaties of 1815; and he especially contends for the right of Spain, Russia, and Austria, to take part in the negotiation for the settlement of the Sicilian affairs.

It may be observed in reply to the Prince's arguments, that these negotiations do not affect either the form or extent of the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, but their object is merely to concert the means of carrying into execution principles already recognized and acted upon by His Sicilian Majesty, in the way most conducive to the re-establishment of harmony between His Majesty and his Sicilian subjects.

Indeed His Majesty has never thought it necessary previously to consult Spain or any other Governments respecting the changes which he has deemed it right to make in the internal policy of his kingdom when he granted a Constitution to his Neapolitan or Sicilian subjects.

The Russian Government moreover has declined taking any part in the negotiations, and I have been informed that the Spanish Ambassador appears to be disposed to withdraw his claim to intervene in them in consequence of the explanations given to him by M. de Rayneval upon the subject, showing that the rights of his Court would not be affected by the proposed arrangement, and that his interference would be productive of delay.

Prince Satriano, in his note of the 31st, repeats the decided refusal of the Neapolitan Government to agree to the formation of a separate Sicilian army, and says that it would be useless to renew the proposal.

He seems to have misunderstood a passage in my note, as I am not aware upon what grounds he states "that Her Majesty's Ministers have foreseen with much wisdom that on re-examination they would find the force of the arguments brought forward in support of this proposal much weakened, if not totally destroyed." I said no such thing; but on the contrary expressed my hope that upon consideration the reasons in favour of a separate army would meet from the Neapolitan Government all the attention and appreciation which they deserve.

He then proceeds to say that when after the submission of His Sicilian subjects the King shall have sworn to the Constitution which he will grant them, His Majesty's word will be a sufficient guarantee for its maintenance; and he contends that while respecting the Constitution, the King has every right to enforce the maintenance of his prerogatives, and cannot therefore listen to any suggestions from a friendly Power as to the nature or amount of the force which he may deem necessary for securing the internal tranquillity of the country.

The Prince repels with warmth the accusation brought against the troops under his command, of having during their attack on Messina committed acts not consistent with the usual practices of civilized warfare; he declares that the reports to that effect were calumnious, false, and insulting to the honour of his soldiers, proceeding from prejudiced, lying, and hostile parties, which he undertakes to prove.

There is no doubt however that the town of Messina was bombarded for six hours after all resistance had ceased, and that all the houses for the distance of three miles between the town and the sea were burnt and destroyed, with the exception of two which belonged to the Government.

These facts were witnessed by most respectable and impartial persons at the time, and fully corroborated afterwards by the careful inspection of the localities by persons whose testimony was above all suspicion.

The Prince concludes his note by expressing the desire that the negotiation

should be brought to a speedy termination, which however does not appear to be quite consistent with the delay which was allowed to take place in answering the notes of M. de Rayneval and myself, or with the proposal contained in the Prince's note of the 11th ultimo, to admit Spain and indeed all the Powers who signed the Treaties of Vienna, or whose territories border on the Mediterranean Sea, to take part in the mediation, and, as it were, to submit the arrangement of the affairs of Sicily to the decision of an European Congress.

Prince Satriano has addressed a note to M. de Rayneval, in which he expresses his regret that the King cannot consent to the separation of the military and naval forces of the Two Sicilies, but says that His Majesty is ready to grant to the Sicilians all the constitutional privileges which may be necessary for their welfare. He states that the mass of the Sicilians are anxious for the return of peace and for the protection of the Neapolitan army, and he begs the French Government not to confound the great body of the Sicilian people with a small but active, bold, and intelligent set of men, who controul the rest of the population, and refuse all proposals of conciliation from motives of personal interest and ambit on.

It may be observed that neither the note addressed to myself nor that to M. de Rayneval contains any allusion to an intention of granting an amnesty.

Inclosure 1 in No. 381.

Prince Satriano to the Hon. W. Temple.

M. le Ministre,

Messine, le 11 Janvier, 1849.

LE Prince de Cariati ayant transmis ici les deux notes que votre Excellence avait adressées à ce Ministre le 29 et 30 Décembre dernier, au sujet de la Question Sicilienne, le Soussigné s'empresse d'avoir l'honneur d'en prévenir votre Excellence.

La dernière de ces notes répond à celle que le Prince de Cariati a fait passer à votre Excellence le 21 Décembre pour annoncer aux Représentans de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne et à ceux de la République Française, que Sa Majesté Sicilienne n'avait désigné pour intervenir aux conférences chargées de discuter et de proposer les moyens propres à résoudre amicalement la question mentionnée.

Tout en craignant que mes habitudes et mon éducation militaire me laissent au-dessous de l'importante mission que le Roi a voulu m'imposer, je ne saurais trop me féliciter d'avoir à traiter avec vous, M. le Ministre, dont les hautes qualités publiques et privées me sont un sûr garant du vif désir qui nous animera les uns et les autres, de terminer pacifiquement, honorablement et heureusement, la Question Sicilienne.

En attendant que je puisse prendre très prochainement les ordres du Roi mon auguste Souverain sur divers objets relatifs à la question que nous traitons, je juge qu'il n'est pas inutile de porter à votre connaissance que Sa Majesté après avoir fait examiner les principes qui ont servi de bases à toutes les médiations offertes ou imposées, pacifiques ou armées, pense que les devoirs rigoureux que lui impose sa Couronne devant Dieu et devant les hommes, ne lui permettent pas de consentir à remettre en question la forme, l'étendue, la politique intérieure du Royaume des Deux Siciles, sans la coopération, sans l'assentiment des Hautes Puissances Contractantes qui en 1815 ont eu pour but de donner à l'Europe des garanties contre le renouvellement des guerres civiles et internationales, qui pendant les dernières années du 18^{me} siècle et les trois premiers lustres du 19^{me} avaient affligé l'humanité.

J'ajouterai qu'en dehors de ces grands principes, lesquels seulement peuvent garantir l'équilibre Européen, il n'y a que désolation et misère pour les peuples; que l'année 1848 en a fourni partout des exemples sanglans; que partout aussi la réversion d'ordre et de conservation se manifeste fortement, et que dans ce retour providentiel à la raison et à la lumière, il est dans l'intérêt de tous que tous concourent, contribuent à cette œuvre d'humanité, car le bon accord de tous les peuples peut seul faire arriver à une solution pacifique et durable des questions sociales qui ont fait couler tant de sang depuis un an.

Quant aux droits de l'Espagne de prendre part aux conférences amicales qui ont pour but d'assurer au Royaume des Deux Siciles le repos et le bonheur dont

ces deux pays éprouvent un si grand besoin, il est incontestable qu'ils sont fondés sur toutes les règles, sur tous les principes qui jusqu'à ce jour ont guidé les publicistes de tous les pays.

Droits d'hérédité au trône, quels qu'ils soient.

Droits de voisinage, au point de vue politique, commercial, et maritime.

Droits de signature des Traités de 1815 qui sont encore la base de l'équilibre Européen reconnus même en 1848 par l'Angleterre et par toutes les Puissances tournées par les guerres sociales.

Les droits d'hérédité au Trône des Deux Siciles, quelque éloignés qu'ils soient, n'en sont pas moins existants, et je me permets de croire que les conséquences de la Loi Salique que vous invoquez, M. le Ministre, sont ici en-dehors de la question, ce qui, suivant la manière dont j'envisage cette question, m'autorise à penser que les titres des Bourbons d'Espagne à cette succession éventuelle appartiennent à un avenir que la Providence seule peut prévoir.

Les droits de voisinage ont été invoqués dans les temps anciens comme dans les temps modernes.

Les Etats riverains de la Méditerranée ont donc tous les droits inaliénables à coopérer à tout règlement international des Etats riverains; à ce titre l'Autriche, comme Puissance signataire des Traités de 1815 et comme Etat riverain, pourrait donc, ainsi que l'Espagne, revendiquer le droit d'entrer dans le règlement des affaires du Royaume des Deux Siciles.

Enfin la Russie a déjà exprimé ses opinions à ce sujet; et à mon avis l'un n'est pas douteux que cette Grande Puissance ne s'oppose à tout arrangement qui pourrait être contraire, dans le présent ou dans l'avenir, à cet équilibre Européen qu'elle a fait tant de généreux sacrifices pour maintenir.

En attendant que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne ait fait connaître la ligne de conduite qu'il désire que vous suiviez, M. le Ministre, à l'égard des principes généraux que je viens d'avoir l'honneur de vous exposer, je répondrai par ma prochaine note aux arguments principaux que contient la note du 29 Décembre sur les affaires intérieures de la Sicile.

Je suis, &c.

(Signé) LE PRINCE DE Satriano.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Messina, January 11, 1849.

THE Prince de Cariati having forwarded here the two notes which your Excellency addressed to that Minister on the 29th and 30th of December last, on the subject of the Sicilian Question, the Undersigned hastens to have the honour of acquainting your Excellency with that fact.

The last of these notes is in answer to that which the Prince of Cariati wrote to your Excellency on the 21st of December to announce to the Representatives of the Queen of Great Britain and of the French Republic, that His Sicilian Majesty had chosen me to take part in the conferences charged with the discussion and proposition of measures proper to settle amicably the above-mentioned question.

Although I fear that my military habits and education may render me unequal to the important mission which the King has been pleased to impose upon me, I cannot congratulate myself too much on having to treat with you, M. le Ministre, whose excellent public and private qualities are a sure guarantee to me of the anxious desire which will animate all of us to terminate the Sicilian Question peacefully, honourably, and happily.

Till I can take, which will be very shortly, the orders of the King my august Sovereign on several matters relative to the question which we are considering, I consider that it may not be useless to acquaint you that His Majesty after having caused to be investigated the principles which have served as bases to all the mediations proffered or imposed, peaceful or armed, is of opinion that the strict duties which his Crown imposes on him in the sight of God and man, will not allow him to consent that the form, extent, or internal polity of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies should become matter of discussion, without the co-operation, without the assent of the High Contracting Powers who in 1815 had for their object to give to Europe guarantees against the renewal of the civil and international wars which during the last years of the

eighteenth century, and the first fifteen years of the nineteenth century, had afflicted humanity.

I will add that without the pale of those great principles which can alone guarantee the balance of power in Europe, there is only desolation and misery for nations; that the year 1848 has on all sides furnished sanguinary proofs of this assertion; that the reaction of order and conservatism is also manifesting itself strongly on all sides, and that in this providential return to reason and wisdom, it is the interest of all that all should co-operate in, should contribute to this work of humanity, since the good agreement of all nations can alone achieve a peaceful and lasting arrangement of the social questions which have caused so much bloodshed during this year.

As for the rights of Spain to take part in the friendly conferences which have for their object to secure to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies the repose and happiness of which these two countries stand so much in need, it is incontestable that such rights are founded on all the rules, on all the principles which have guided the publicists of all countries up to the present time:

Rights of inheritance, such as they may be, to the throne;

Rights of vicinity in a political, commercial, and maritime point of view;

Rights as having signed the Treaties of 1815, which are still the basis of the balance of power of Europe, recognized even in 1848 by England and by all the Powers convulsed by social wars.

The rights of inheritance to the throne of the Two Sicilies however remote they may be, do not the less exist; and I take the liberty of thinking that the consequences of the Salic Law which you invoke, M. le Ministre, are here foreign to the question, so that the view which I take of this question authorizes me to think that the title of the Bourbons of Spain to that succession belongs to a future which Providence alone can foresee.

The rights of vicinity have been invoked in ancient and in modern times.

The States therefore bordering on the Mediterranean have all inalienable rights to co-operate in every international arrangement of the bordering States; so that Austria as a Power which signed the Treaties of 1815, and as a State bordering on the Mediterranean, might, as well as Spain, claim the right of joining in the settlement of the affairs of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

Lastly, Russia has already expressed her views on this subject, and in my opinion it is not doubtful that that great Power would resist any arrangement which might be opposed now or hereafter to that balance of power in Europe which she has made so many glorious sacrifices to uphold.

In the meantime, until the Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain shall have acquainted you with the line of conduct which it wishes you to pursue, M. le Ministre, with regard to the general principles which I have now the honour to submit to you, I will reply in my next note to the principal arguments contained in your note of the 29th of December on the internal affairs of Sicily.

I take, &c.

(Signed) THE PRINCE DE SATRIANO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 381.

Prince Satriano to the Hon. W. Temple.

Eccellenza,

Napoli, 31 Gennaio, 1849.

AL mio ritorno da Sicilia ho, come il doveva, recata senza indugio la dovuta attenzione alla nota di vostra Eccellenza diretta al Principe di Cariat, in data de 29 Dicembre, 1848, e dallo stesso fattami tenere in Messina.

All' Eccellenza vostra rincresco che le vedute del Governo del Rè mio Augusto Sovrano sieno direttamente opposte a quelle del Governo di Sua Maestà la Regina della Gran Bretagna su quanto riguarda la formazione di un esercito di ordinanza esclusivamente Siciliano, ed il Governo de Sua Maestà il Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie prova egual rammarico nel non poter riguardare tale questione nel modo istesso in cui il praticano i Ministri de Sua Maestà Britannica, i quali per altru hanno preveduto con molta saggezza, che riesaminandola verrà di molto inievolita, se non pure totalmente distrutta, la forza degli argomenti in suo sostegno prodotti.

Il Governo dunque di Sua Maestà Siciliana non ha altro da aggiungere nè altro a comunicare all' Eccellenza vostra su tale oggetto; ed i Consiglieri del Rè m'in Signore avendo con la maggior ponderazione considerata la questione, l'hanno scorta sotto l'aspetto medesimo in cui la considerò e la espresse il Principe di Cariati nella nota che egli diresse a vostra Eccellenza in data de' 19 Dicembre prossimo passato. E però è ormai inutile ogni ulteriore discussione in proposito, poichè questa a nulla menerebbe. Quindi il Sottoscritto è nell'obbligo di ripetere che la formazione di un'armata Siciliana è una proposizione cui il Governo di Sua Maestà il Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie non può dare la sua annuenza.

Nella stessa nota de' 29 Dicembre asserisce che una forza militare Napoletana presenterebbe un doppio inconveniente, poichè se considerevole desterebbe ne' Siciliani il timore di veder da questa manomessi i loro dritti; se debbole ravviverebbe ne' tristi il desiderio di fomentar novelli disordini, il che forse renderebbe facile la memoria fresca delle passate vicende.

Replica a ciò il Sottoscritto, che il Rè manterrà in Sicilia quella quantità di truppa che reputerà sufficiente per raggiungere il duplice scopo di difendere i suoi sudditi, e di mantenere l'ordine pubblico mercè il rispetto pel Governo e per le leggi, nè il numero di queste soldatesche potrà, dal preteso timore che desse esser possano pericolose per la libertà ed insufficienti pel mantenimento dell'ordine, venir determinato, ma il sarà soltanto dalla realtà del bisogno.

Il Sottoscritto però suppone che vostra Eccellenza domandi in nome de' Siciliani quale sicurezza avrebbero essi, sotto la pressione della forza militare, e minacciati dalla legge marziale, di conservare le loro politiche istituzioni. Io mi permetterò dare a ciò una risposta per quanto semplice altrettanto soddisfacente fra uomini di onore, cioè che quando sommessi alla legittima autorità i suoi sudditi ultra Faro, il Rè avrà giurata la Costituzione che egli loro concede, con ciò garantendo i dritti dei Siciliani che dalla medesima derivano, tanto l'augusto mio Sovrano è incapace di mancare alle sue promesse, quanto il Governo di Sua Maestà Britannica dev'essere incapace di sospettarlo.

D'altronde, il Monarca facendo parte essenziale di quello statuto, egli rispettandolo religiosamente potrà esser fortissimo nel pretendere che non sieno oltraggiati o menomati i suoi dritti. Però l'augusto mio Sovrano comunque grato all' Eccellenza vostra pe' suggerimenti che presenta da parte di una Potenza amica, afflu di regolare la polizia e di assicurare la interna tranquillità del suo reame, rimane egli non pertanto nel convincimento che tali materie, anche per la forma, debbono essere affidate allo esame ed alle determinazioni delle autorità a ciò dalle leggi preposte. Quindi le osservazioni di vostra Eccellenza che riferiscono all'essere preferibile per la Sicilia che la pubblica sicurezza venga affidato ai capitani d'armi ed alla Guardia Nazionale, comunque debitamente valutate dal Governo di Sua Maestà Siciliana, pare dallo stesso reputasi non esser queste materie in cui Sua Maestà possa esser disposta a chiedere ed a ricevere norme dai fedeli suoi alleati.

Relativamente alla domanda fatta a vostra Eccellenza dal Principe di Cariati nella sua nota de' 19 Dicembre, cioè: "Se riuscendo a mettersi quà d'accordo sugli articoli in discussione, i Siciliani rifiutassero di annuirvi, sarebbero essi in tal caso obbligati ad uniformarsi alla forza?" vostra Eccellenza è stata negativa.

Ma non può ella aver dimenticato che il Rè delle Due Sicilie con la forza è stato costretto ad un armistizio, senza il quale egli già da più mesi avrebbe restituita la calma allo intera Sicilia. Ora questa tregua venne imposta alle Reali truppe, asserendosi la intenzione di terminare la questione per via di negoziazioni; quindi parmi che ciò dovevasi imporre come condizione della tregua stessa ad ambo le parti, e però se il Governo de Sua Maestà Siciliana accetta quanto potrà fra noi convenirsi, sembra strano di anticipare che non s'intende giovare verso i ricalitranti della stessa forza che usata nello intimare al Rè di Napoli ciò che a lui s'impose.

Il Sottoscritto poi è oltremodo dolente per quanto leggersi in quella parte della nota di vostra Eccellenza che riferisce alla condotta delle Reali truppe in Messina, ed è nell'obbligo di dichiararle essere stata la Eccellenza vostra indotta in errore in modo non giustificabile per coloro che le hanno riferito menzogne in modo cotanto calunnioso ed oltraggiante per l'onore dei suoi soldati. Vostra Eccellenza andando più oltre ha creduto regolare imputare alle truppe di mio comando esecrando barbarie, asserendo che i soldati Napoletani nel corso delle ostilità non hanno praticato quanto è in uso presso le nazioni uicivilite, e

soggiunge che i Comandanti delle forze navali di Sua Maestà Britannica probabilmente avrebbero serbata la loro posizione neutrale se l'attacco fosse stato diretto unicamente contro le persone armate, senza trascorrere fino all'estermidio di persone che non resistevano e di abitanti privi di ajuto.

Siffatte accuse da parte di vostra Eccellenza acquistano quel grado d'importanza che certamente non avrebbero se venissero da chiunque altro prodotte, ed io mi felicito che presto avrò l'opportunità di far conoscere sino all'evidenza al mondo intero, ed a vostra Eccellenza particolarmente, quanto sia grave l'errore nel quale l'hanno fatta cadere i fallaci rapporti diretti mediamente, o direttamente da gente prevenuta, bugiarda, ed ostile. Il Sottoscritto quindi limitasi per ora a dichiarare a vostra Eccellenza che egli reputerebbe indegni di portare il nome di soldati i conquistatori di Messina, se la loro condotta fosse stata realmente quella che a vostra Eccellenza si è voluto far credere, e si augura egli che l'Eccellenza vostra presto si persuaderà che ufficiale come egli è dal 3 Luglio, 1797, non poteva un mezzo secolo di esperienza conciliarsi con quella totale ignoranza de' precipui dovere in chi comanda d'impedire le atrocità che la più nera calunnia addebita ai di lui subordinati.

Da ultimo si augura il Sottoscritto che ella scegnerà agevolmente la necessità di presto mettersi fine a queste negoziazioni, poichè il prostrarle ulteriormente è di gran nocumento agl'interessi di Sua Maestà Siciliana, tanto maggiormente che il Rè mio Signore è ora proelive, come lo è sempre stato, ed ai pari de' Sovrani più liberali, a concedere quelle costituzionali franchigie, le quali assiecurar possano la felicità de' suoi sudditi Siciliani; ma se poi continuasse parte di essi a perseverare nella ribellione, il Rè mio Signore non saprebbe di ciò consolarsi, se non mercè l'intimo di lui convincimento, che non per sua colpa la Sicilia rimarrebbe priva de' vantaggi che scaturiscono da un liberale reggimento, da bene equilibrata costituzione, e dal desiderio che il suo Real animo nutre di farle usare e godere de' nazionali dritti che da quelle emergono.

E se Sua Maestà Siciliana rieuca di annuire alla formazione di un armata e di un esercito esclusivamente Siciliani, ciò deriva dalla necessaria persuasione in cui tutti siamo, che siffatta separazione delle forze di terra e di mare delle Due Sicilie sarebbe causa di conseguenze fatali; di tal che invece di concorrersi ad una stabile riconciliazione, altro non farebbero se non preparare novelle e forse cruentissime discordie in un avvenire più o meno prossimo.

Il Sottoscritto non iscorge altro nella nota di vostra Eccellenza del dì 29 Dicembre, cui sia egli nell'obbligo di rispondere, poichè quanto riguarda il Duca di Rivas è stato esaurito nell'ultima nota direttata da Messina, e però non rimanegli che di profittare, &c.

(Firmato)

IL PRINCIPE DI SATRIANO.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Naples, January 31, 1849.

ON my return from Sicily I immediately, as in duty bound, paid the necessary attention to the note which your Excellency addressed to Prince Cariati on December 29, 1848, and which the Prince forwarded to me at Messina.

Your Excellency regrets that the views of the Government of the King my august Sovereign should be directly opposed to those of the Government of the Queen of Great Britain, as far as regard the formation of a regular army exclusively Sicilian; and the Government of His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies feels equal regret at not being able to view the question in the same light as Her Britannic Majesty's Ministers, who have moreover with much wisdom foreseen that the force of the arguments produced in its favour will be much weakened if not totally destroyed by examination.

The Government then of His Sicilian Majesty has nothing else to add or to communicate to your Excellency upon this subject, and the Councillors of the King my master having paid the greatest attention to the question have viewed it under the same light as Prince Cariati viewed it and expressed it in his note to your Excellency of December 19th; and therefore it is useless to proceed with any further discussion upon the subject, as it would lead to no result.

The Undersigned is therefore under the necessity of repeating that the formation of a Sicilian army is a proposition to which the Government of His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies cannot give its consent.

In the same note of 29th December it is asserted that a Neapolitan military force would present a double objection, because on the one hand if it were numerous it would excite on the part of the Sicilians the fear of seeing their rights destroyed by it, and if it were weak it would renew in the minds of ill-disposed persons the desire to foment new disorders which the recollection of recent events would render more easy.

The Undersigned answers to this, that the King will maintain in Sicily that quantity of troops which he may deem sufficient for attaining the double object of defending his subjects and maintaining the public order through respect for the Government and the laws, nor can the extent of the force to be maintained be determined by the alleged fear that it may be either dangerous to the liberties of the country or insufficient for the maintenance of order, but it must be determined solely by what circumstances may really require.

The Undersigned moreover supposes that your Excellency asks in the name of the Sicilians what security they can have for preserving their political institutions when under the pressure of military force and threatened by martial law.

To this I may be allowed to return the following answer, which is as simple as it must be satisfactory to men of honour, that when after the submission of his subjects beyond the Faro, the King shall have sworn to the Constitution which he will grant them, and thereby shall have guaranteed the rights which the Sicilians will derive from it, my august Sovereign is as incapable of breaking his promise as Her Britannic Majesty's Government ought to be incapable of suspecting him of doing so.

On the other hand, as the Monarch forms an essential part of that statute, while respecting it must religiously he may strongly enforce his claim to prevent his rights being attacked or diminished. But my august Sovereign, although thankful to your Excellency for the suggestions which you submit to him on the part of a friendly Power as to the means of regulating the police and insuring the internal tranquillity of his kingdom, remains nevertheless convinced that such matters, even as regards their outward form, should be confided to the examination and settlement of the authorities appointed for that purpose by law. Therefore your Excellency's observations, which refer to its being preferable for Sicily that the public safety should be intrusted to capitani d'armi and the national guard, although they have been duly weighed by the Government of His Sicilian Majesty, are considered nevertheless to be matters respecting which His Majesty would not feel disposed to ask or receive directions from his faithful allies.

As to the question which your Excellency was asked by Prince Cariati in his note of December 19th, namely, "whether supposing that an agreement were come to here upon the propositions under consideration, and the Sicilians should not consent thereto, they would in that case be compelled to agree to them by force?" your Excellency returned an answer in the negative.

But you cannot have forgotten that the King of the Two Sicilies was obliged by force to consent to an armistice, without which he would have restored peace several months ago to the whole of Sicily. Now this truce was imposed upon the Royal troops, it being announced that it was intended to terminate the question by means of negotiation; it appears therefore to me that the same ought to have been imposed upon both parties as a condition of the truce; and therefore if the Government of His Sicilian Majesty accepts what may be agreed upon between us, it seems strange to anticipate that it is not intended to make use of the same force against the refusing party which was employed in intimating to the King of Naples that which was imposed upon him.

The Undersigned is also extremely grieved to read that part of your Excellency's note which refers to the conduct of the Royal troops in Messina, and is in duty bound to declare that your Excellency has been led into error in an unjustifiable manner by those who have reported lies to you in a way so calumnious and insulting to the honour of his soldiers. Your Excellency in addition has thought fit to impute horrible barbarities to the troops under my command, asserting that the Neapolitan soldiers in the course of hostilities have not acted in the manner usual among civilised nations, and adds that the Commanders of Her Britannic Majesty's naval forces would probably have remained in a neutral position if the attack had been directed only against armed persons, without proceeding to the extermination of the unresisting and defenceless inhabitants.

These accusations brought by your Excellency acquire a greater degree of

importance than they would have if they came from any other quarter, and I rejoice that I shall soon have an opportunity of showing clearly to the world in general and to your Excellency in particular, into how great an error you have been led by the fallacious reports of prejudiced, lying, and hostile parties.

The Undersigned therefore confines himself at present to declare to your Excellency that he would consider the conquerors of Messina unworthy to bear the name of soldiers, if their conduct had been really that which your Excellency has been induced to believe, and hopes that your Excellency will shortly be persuaded that as he has been an officer since July 3, 1797, half a century of experience would be incompatible with such total ignorance of the chief duties of a commander, namely to prevent such atrocities as the blackest calumny imputes to his subordinates.

Finally, the Undersigned hopes that your Excellency will see the necessity of speedily putting an end to these negotiations, as it is most injurious to the interests of His Sicilian Majesty to prolong them any further, the more so as His Majesty is now inclined, as he always has been, and equally so with the most liberal Sovereigns, to grant them those constitutional privileges which may insure the happiness of his Sicilian subjects; but should a part of them persevere in their rebellion, the King could not console himself except by the intimate conviction that it would not be from any fault of his if Sicily remained deprived of the advantages which result from a liberal Government, a well-balanced Constitution, and the desire which animates him to enable the Sicilians to use and enjoy the national rights which spring from them.

And if His Sicilian Majesty refuses to agree to the formation of an army exclusively Sicilian, that arises from the conviction that such separation would be attended with fatal consequences, and instead of promoting durable conciliation it would prepare fresh and perhaps more sanguinary discord at a future time more or less near.

The Undersigned sees nothing further which he has to reply to, as his former note contains all that he has to observe respecting the Duc de Rivas, and he avails, &c.

(Signed) IL PRINCIPE SATRIANO.

No. 382.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 18.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 5, 1849.

I HAVE just seen M. de Rayneval, who informs me that he has received a despatch from his Government, from which it appears that the Governments of England and France had agreed that some modification might be made with respect to the proposed establishment of a separate army for Sicily to meet the views of His Sicilian Majesty, and that an arrangement might be made by which some of the forts of Sicily might be occupied by garrisons consisting of a certain number of Neapolitan troops, who without being in contact with the Sicilian population might offer their aid in preserving order should they be called upon to do so by the Sicilian Government.

M. de Rayneval also informs me that at an interview which he has had with Prince Satriano, the Prince gave him to understand that the King of Naples would be willing to agree to such an arrangement; that he would grant a Constitution to his Sicilian subjects founded upon that of 1812, and that he proposed to issue a proclamation announcing this intention to his Sicilian subjects, and informing them that while he thought it would be expedient for his troops to occupy certain points in the island until further arrangements could be made upon the subject, he would refrain from sending any troops to Palermo or the neighbouring country, in order that no obstacle should be presented to the development of the Constitution. It was intended also to accompany this measure with the promulgation of a general amnesty.

Prince Satriano also stated that all idea of the intervention of Spain or any other Power was entirely given up.

I understand that I may expect shortly to receive from your Lordship instructions for my guidance upon the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

No. 383.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 3.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 22, 1849.

I INCLOSE to your Lordship a copy and translation of the note addressed by Prince Satriano to M. de Rayneval on the 31st of January last, in answer to the note of the 29th December of last year, the substance of which I have already communicated to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 383.

Prince Satriano to M. de Rayneval.

Eccellenza,

Napoli, 31 Gennaio, 1849.

REDUCE gli scorsi giorni da Sicilia, appena disbrigati gli urgentissimi affari militari che interessavano altamente il bene essere della truppa di mio comando, mi son dedicato come il dovea a rispondere alla nota da vostra Eccellenza diretta al Principe di Cariati il dì 29 Dicembre, 1848, la quale in Messina mi è stata trasmessa.

Mi auguro che sarà l'Eccellenza vostra convinta del vivo rincrescimento da me provato nello scorgere la impossibilità in che siamo di trovarsi uniformi nel nostro modo di opinare sulla quistione relativa alla formazione in Sicilia di un esercito, grande o piccolo che sia, composto esclusivamente di Siciliani, poichè il Rè mio augusto Sovrano reputa un dovere di coscienza di non mai acconsentire a quello che egli fondatamente crede essere opposto al bene ed alla sicurezza individuale e delle proprietà, al tranquillo vivere degli amatissimi suoi sudditi, e ciò oltre l'obbligo che gli corre ancora di assicurare l'ordine pubblico, il rispetto al Governo, e l'obbedienza alle leggi, cose tutte che Sua Maestà ha il profondo convincimento di non potersi conseguire in Sicilia, se l'esercito non sia composto di Napoletani e Siciliani indistintamente.

Ora per quanto il Rè mio Signore è proclive ad accordare ai Siciliani quelle costituzionali franchigie, e tutte quelle concessioni che essi reputano un bene, e sulle quali non dubito che presto è intenderemo, altrettanto sento il vivo rammarico di non potere annuire alla separazione delle forze militari di terra e di mare fra le Due Sicilie.

Se ivi le armi non si trovassero ora nelle mani degli uomini facinorosi che condanne ritenevano nelle galere, nelle carceri, ed in relegazione sulle isole, o pure se gran numero di esse non fosse presso quello stuolo di malfattori contro i quali procedevano le corti penali o la giustizia circondariale, si potrebbe forse attendere quel tempo remoto in cui l'Eccellenza vostra suppone che un armata Napoletana in Sicilia non presenterebbe gl'inconvenienti che ora le si fa supporre di esistere. Ma questo modo di vedere cesserebbe senza indugio se l'Eccellenza vostra conoscesse con esattezza lo stato attuale dell'interno della Sicilia, ove da per tutto si desiderano e si chiedono le Regie truppe, come sole atte a reprimere l'anarchia e gli eccessi di ogni maniera che commettono i tristi; ed io scongiuro l'Eccellenza vostra, pel quale nudo sentimento di altissima stima, di procurarsi queste notizie, poichè mi addolora lo scorgere che un uomo dotato di tante pregevolissime qualità e di un giudizio sì sano, debba cader nell'errore, comunque egli ragioni sempre con la più severa logica, poichè i ragioncini più veri menano a conseguenze che non son tali, allorchè partono da un principio inesatto.

Se la Republica Francese vuol proteggere, come uou nè dubito, la Sicilia, vostra Eccellenza, che ha un sì nobile mandato, è scongiurata dal Sottoscritto di scervare i voti, i desiderj, i bisogni e gl'interessi de' moltissimi, da quelli che mette innanzi una mano di faziosi scarsissima di numero, ma fortissimi per audacia, per ingegno, e per infernale operosità. Se quelli non brumano altro che pace, quiete e la possibilità di ritornare ognuno alle sue normali occupazioni, questi, cioè i tristi, perchè avidi di potere e di danaro si opporranno sempre non solo alla unità delle forze militare di terra e di mare, ma con vani e mentiti

pretesti a qualunque accomodo, poichè per costoro l'anarchia ed il disordine sono cause di agiato vivere, di ricchezza e di potere.

Vostra Eccellenza soggiunge che l'Inghilterra e la Francia non potrebbero dar la Sicilia nelle mani dell' armata che la minaccia; a ciò io rispondo non mettendo innanzi le quistioni di dritto, il quale è tutto e per intero in favore del Rè mio augusto Sovrano, ma replicherò soltanto con la breve storia de' fatti.

Quali inconvenienti sono accaduti in Milazzo, in Barcellona, in Pozzo di Gotto, in Santa Lucia, in San Piero, in Rocca, in Gualtieri, a Spadafora, a Scaletta, ed in molti altri conuini da più di quattro mesi e mezzo pacificamente occupati dalle nostre truppe?

Non vi è stato un solo esempio che soldati percorrendo isolatamente di notte o di giorno per sentieri alpestri più miglia siano stati insultati, maltrattati o feriti. Non dico che gli abitanti sono stati egualmente dalla truppa rispettati nelle persone e nelle proprietà, poichè questo è un sacro dovere per truppe disciplinate, e gli elogi non possono incominciare che quando si fa al di là del dovere. Si soggiunga che nella parte della provincia occupata dalle Reali truppe, per mancanza di edifizj militari e di altri capaci di contenere queste rimate in certo numero, son desse alloggiate non di rado nelle case degli abitanti, e frequentemente veggonsi i soldati aver cura durante il giorno de' fanciulli, allorchè i genitori ed i figliuoli più adulti escono da rispettivi domicilj per andare a coltivare i loro campi. Dicano i Messinesi cosa han visto Domenica 21 del corrente. Quel giorno memorando ha dovuto far cader la benda della illusione anche ai più calde vaglieggiatori della demagogia Siciliana.

Cinque distaccamenti, ognuno di 150 cittadini, armati tutti con i propri fucili, alla eccezione di pochi cui cransi somministrate armi militari, vennero in Messina riuniti in bell' ordine a ricevere ai piedi degli altari le bandiere dal Rè destinate ai cinque primi battaglioni di volontarj Siciliani, e questa buona gente gridando "Viva il Rè! vogliamo il nostro Rè, vogliamo egli solo," nel ricevere il vessillo della legittimità, giurarono di difenderlo; in tal guisa questa brave gente dava la più solenne smentita, in nome de' loro concittadini, a quella pretesa unanimità di odio verso il Sovrano cui vuol farsi credere da' rivoltosi. E però è da notarsi che fra que' pacifici agricoltori, fra quelli onesti operai per quanto siano essi attaccati alla loro religione ed alla dinastia che da 114 anni regge i destini delle Due Sicilie, per effetto dell' universale abborrimento de' Siciliani alla disciplina ed alle abitudini militari, non ve nè sarebbe forse neppure un solo che consentirebbe ungrado qualunque emolumento a divenir soldato. Neppure dunque questa spontanea pruova di amore, questa bella manifestazione di unanime attaccamento al Rè ed all' ordine pubblico, e di profonda avversione alle teorie sovvertitrici che guidano i passi degl' impostori non deficienti di eloquenza, di abilità, dominati da smodata ambizione e non privi di audacia, i quali sonosi in Palermo impadroniti del potere, non puol far sorgere menomamente la speranza della possibilità di formare in Sicilia con Siciliani non tratti dalle galere e dalle prigioni, un esercito di ordinanza. Questo fatto spiega come l'esercito delle Due Sicilie, il quale possiede tuttora gran numero di uffiziali Siciliani distinti per coraggio, per intelligenza, per istruzione, e per somma onoratezza, non ha potuto malgrado gli sforzi più perseveranti riunire più di 4 battaglioni di soldati. Sarà quindi a sperare che cessino infine le tante calunnie che dal partito sovversivo in Palermo s'inventano in opposizione de' fatti che gli stessi onorevoli uffiziali Inglesi e Francesi varie volte spediti da' loro Comandanti hanno avuto l'aggio di verificare. Dicano sul loro onore se nelle loro gite a Barcellona, Milazzo, &c., da per tutto hanno esse inteso far l'elogio della moderazione de' soldati Napoletani e delle benevoli loro relazioni con gli abitanti.

Passo quindi vostra Eccellenza a toccare varj altri argomenti, i quali possono riassumere nel seguente modo;

1. Le due Potenze non aveano niuna intenzione di frapponere ostacolo alla spedizione di Sicilia, e se hanno entrambe approvata la risoluzione degli Ammiragli, non è per la spedizione in se stessa, ma per le circostanze che l'hanno accompagnata.

2. Le due Grandi Potenze prescrivono agli Ammiragli di serbare la loro attitudine mentre dureranno le negoziazioni.

3. Le due Potenze in qualunque caso non impiegheranno la forza per decidere gl' insorti ad accettar le condizioni della pace.

4. L'azione delle due Potenze su Siciliani sarà necessariamente propor-

zionata alla natura delle condizioni che i due Rappresentanti potrebbero essere nel caso di recare a Palermo; sarà ristretta se le condizioni sono insufficienti; impiegherebbero tutta la loro influenza per ottenere l'adesione nel caso contrario; ma in qualunque caso l'azione non giungerebbe fino ad impiegar la forza.

Da quanto sopra risulta dunque che i due Ammiragli Baudin e Parker non avevano istruzioni per minacciar la guerra al Rè di Napoli, ed operare ostilmente contro di lui, sì le sue truppe in Sicilia avessero fatto un passo di più anche per acconsentire alla occupazione di varj comuni che imploravan truppe nelle loro mura, onde frenar l'anarchia che le manomette. Non pertanto ciò che da prelodati Ammiragli si è operato prova che hanno perfettamente indovinato le intenzioni de' loro rispettivi Governi, poichè hanno riscosso l'approvazione di esse, ed hanno inoltre ricevuto l'ordine di persistere nella stessa attitudine ostile mentre continuansi le amichevoli trattative.

Se ragion di ciò sia stato un voto di umanità, giammai più lodevole desiderio sarà meno soddisfatto, poichè la resistenza offerta da faziosi della Sicilia tutta, che ne' principj del Settembre 1848 eransi in Messina riuniti, avendo determinato naturalmente che nello attaccarli si fosse usato un equivalente vigore, il successo di questo avea prodotto una sì forte impressione su tutta la Sicilia che indubitatamente sarei io giunto prima che finisse il mese di Settembre innanzi Palermo senza tirare un sol colpo di fucile. Giunto ivi avrei occupato le strade mercè le quali quella gran città si alimenta, e tagliati gli aquedotti, occupati i molini, bloccato il porto, nel volgere di otto giorni la numerosissima popolazione di Palermo non solo avrebbe aperte le sue porte, ma chiesto in grazia di far entrare pacificamente nelle sue mura le mie truppe. Invece l'ostile intervento delle forze navali di Francia e d'Inghilterra, e tutto quel che si è operato degl' 11 Settembre in poi ha destato tante speranze, tante illusioni, ha prodotto tanti funesti errori, che difficilmente ora la mia marcia su Palermo potrà essere innocua, come indubitatamente la sarebbe stata senza la dichiarazione de' Signori Nonay e Robb, fatta in nome de' rispettivi Ammiragli, i quali per altro dopo la ricevuta approvazione sono usciti da ogni responsabilità. Questa i rispettivi Ministri l'hanno assunta per intero, e però mi è oggi lecito di dire che i Governi della Repubblica Francese e della Gran Bretagna direttamente dispongono delle loro forze navali per proteggere l'anarchia ed impedire il Rè di Napoli di far rientrare sotto la legittima sua autorità i suoi sudditi Siciliani, la immensa maggioranza de' quali non aspira che a pace e riposo.

Nel dichiararsi poi che in niun caso impiegherassi la forza per decidere gl' insorti di Palermo ad accettar le condizioni della pace, non iscorgo i buoni uffizj che la Francia intende praticare per menare a buon fine la Quistione Siciliana, malgrado la squisita urbanità delle forme che riveste quella dichiarazione. Chiedo quindi a me stesso perchè tanta benignità verso i ribelli, e sì ferma risoluzione nel vietare al Rè di Napoli di far progredire le sue truppe per sottomettere i suoi sudditi traviati, così recando calma e protezione agli onesti, ai tranquilli, ai moderati che tanto fervorosamente la implorino?

Da ultimo si augura il Sottoseritto che ella scorgerà agevolmente la necessità di presto mettersi fine a queste negoziazioni, poichè il protrarle ulteriormente è di gran nucoamento agl' interessi di Sua Maestà Siciliana, tanto maggiormente che il Rè mio Signore è ora proclive, come lo è sempre stato, ed al pari de' Sovrani più liberali, a concedere quelle costituzionali franchigie, le quali assicurano la felicità dei suoi sudditi Siciliani; ma se poi continuasse parte di essi a perseverare nella ribellione, il Rè mio augusto Sovrano non saprebbe di ciò consolarsi se non mercè l'intimo di lui convincimento che non per sua colpa la Sicilia rimarrebbe priva dei vantaggi che scaturiscono da un liberale reggimento, da bene equilibrata costituzione e dal desiderio che il suo real animo audre di farle usare e godere de' nazionali dritti che da quelle emergono.

E se Sua Maestà Siciliana ricusa di annuire alla formazioni di un armata e di un esercito esclusivamente Siciliani, ciò deriva dalla necessaria persuasione in cui tutti siano che siffatta separazione delle forze di terra e di mare delle Due Sicilie sarebbe causa di fatali conseguenze, di tal che invece di concorrersi ad una stabile riconciliazione, altro non farebbersi se non preparare novelle e forse più cruenti discordie in un avvenire più o meno prossimo.

Il Sottoseritto non iscorge altro nella nota di vostra Eccellenza del dì 29 Dicembre cui sia egli nell' obbligo di rispondere, poichè quanto riguarda il Duca di Rivas è stato esaurito nell' ultima nota direttale da Messina.

Qui annessa il Sottoscritto ha l'onore di trasmettere all' Eccellenza vostra copia di una nota che per l'oggetto medesimo e con questa stessa data dirige al Ministro della Gran Bretagna presso la Real Corte delle Due Sicilie, e profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PRINCIPE DI SATRIANO

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Naples, January 31, 1849.

IMMEDIATELY on my return from Sicily some days since, as soon as I had arranged the important military business which deeply concerned the well-being of the troops under my command, I applied myself, as in duty bound, to answer the note which your Excellency addressed to Prince Cariati on the 29th of December, 1848, which was forwarded to me at Messina.

I hope your Excellency will be convinced of the deep regret that I feel at seeing the impossibility of our agreeing about the formation in Sicily of an army exclusively Sicilian, whether great or small, because the King my august master cannot conscientiously agree to that which he firmly believes would be detrimental to the public good, to the security of individuals and property, and the tranquillity of his most beloved subjects, not to mention the obligation he is under to preserve public order, respect for the Government, and obedience to the laws, all of which things His Majesty has the most profound conviction cannot be attained in Sicily unless the army be composed of Neapolitans and Sicilians indiscriminately.

Now inasmuch as the King my master is disposed to grant to the Sicilians those constitutional privileges and all those concessions which they may consider advantageous, and about which I do not doubt that we shall soon come to an understanding, I the more deeply regret not to be able to consent to the separation of the land and naval forces of the Two Sicilies.

If in that island the arms were not now in the hands of wicked men whom legal sentences had consigned to the galleys, to prison, or to banishment in the island, or if a great number of them were not in the possession of that band of malefactors against whom proceedings in the criminal courts or the district tribunals had been instituted, we might perhaps wait for that remote time when your Excellency imagines that the existence of a Neapolitan army in Sicily would not present the same inconveniences with which you are led to believe it would now be attended. But this mode of viewing the subject would cease without delay if the real state of the interior of Sicily were exactly known to you, in all parts of which the Royal troops are desired and asked for as being those who only are capable of repressing anarchy and the excesses of all sorts which are committed by the bad; and I implore your Excellency, for whom I have the highest esteem, to obtain this intelligence, as it pains me to see a man endowed with so many excellent qualities and with such sound judgment, fall into error, although reasoning according to the severest logic, because the most correct reasonings lead to conclusions which are not so, when they are derived from false premises.

If the French Republic wishes, as I do not doubt, to protect Sicily, your Excellency, who has so noble an office, is conjured by the Undersigned to separate the wishes, the desires, the wants and interests of the many from those which are put forward by a band of factious men, small indeed in number, but very strong in boldness, talent, and infernal activity. If the former wish for nothing but peace, quiet, and the possibility of returning each to their accustomed occupations, the other, that is the bad men, thirsting for power and money, will not only oppose themselves to the union of the land and naval forces, but, under vain and false prettexts, to any arrangement whatever, because anarchy and disorder are to them sources of plenty, riches, and power.

Your Excellency adds that France and England would never give up Sicily into the hands of the army that threatens it; to which I answer with a simple account of facts without entering into the questions of right which is wholly and entirely in favour of the King my august master. What improprieties have occurred at Milazzo, Barcellona, Pozzo di Gotto, Santa Lucia, St. Picro, Rocca,

Gualtieri, Spadafora, Scaletta, and in many other communes, now for more than four months and a half peacefully occupied by our troops?

There has not been one instance of soldiers passing singly by night or day along the mountain paths for many miles being insulted, ill-treated, or wounded.

I do not mention that the inhabitants have been equally respected by the troops in their persons and properties, because this is a sacred duty among disciplined troops, and praise can only be given when more is done than could be required.

It is also to be added that in that part of the province occupied by the Royal troops, on account of the want of military and other edifices capable of containing the troops in any number, they are not unfrequently lodged in the houses of the inhabitants, and the soldiers may often be seen taking care of the babies during the day, when the parents and other children have left their respective domiciles to cultivate their fields.

Let the Messinese tell what they saw on Sunday the 21st instant. That memorable day must have taken the veil from the eyes even of the warmest admirers of Sicilian demagogue agitation.

Five divisions of 150 citizens each, armed with their own guns, with the exception of a few to whom military arms had been given, came into Messina in procession to receive at the foot of the altar the King's banners which had been allotted to the first five battalions of Sicilian volunteers, and these good people, crying out "Long live the King! we want our King and him alone," on receiving the banner of their legitimate Sovereign, swore to defend it; and in that way did these brave people solemnly give the lie in the name of their fellow-countrymen to that pretended unanimity of hatred against the Sovereign which the revolvers endeavoured to cause to be believed.

And moreover it is to be remarked that among these peaceful labourers, these honest workmen, attached as they may be to their religion and to the dynasty which for 114 years has swayed the destinies of the Two Sicilies, yet on account of the abhorrence of the Sicilians for discipline and military habits, there would not probably be one who for any salary, however high, would consent to become a soldier.

Neither therefore can this spontaneous proof of love, this beautiful manifestation of unanimous attachment to the King and to public order, and of profound aversion to the subversive theories which guide the steps of the impostors, not deficient in eloquence or ability, and ruled by a boundless ambition, and not void of boldness, who have possessed themselves of power at Palermo, in any way give rise to the hope of the possibility of forming a regular army in Sicily composed of Sicilians, unless they be taken from the prisons and the galleys.

This fact proves how the army of the Two Sicilies, which comprises at this moment a great number of Sicilian officers distinguished for their courage, intelligence, and professional knowledge and unblemished honour, has not been able, notwithstanding the most persevering endeavours, to raise more than four battalions of soldiers. It is therefore to be hoped that the many calumnies will cease which have been advanced by the revolted party in Palermo, in direct opposition to the facts which the respectable English and French officers who have been often sent by their commanders have had leisure to verify. Let them say on their honour whether in their expeditions to Barcellona and Milazzo, and any where else, they have not heard the praises sung of the moderation of the Neapolitan soldiers, and of their friendly intercourse with the inhabitants.

Your Excellency then passes on to the consideration of various other arguments which may be classed in the following manner:

1. The two Powers had no intention to oppose any obstacle to the expedition against Sicily; and if they have both approved the step taken by their Admirals, it was not on account of the expedition itself, but in consequence of the circumstances which accompanied it.

2. The two Great Powers order their Admirals to preserve the attitude assumed by them during the continuance of the negotiations.

3. The two Powers will in no case employ force to compel the revolvers to accept the conditions of peace.

4. The conduct of the two Powers respecting the Sicilians will necessarily be regulated by the nature of the conditions which the two Representatives may be able to carry to Palermo. It will be confined, should the conditions be insuffi-

cient, and if otherwise they will employ all their influence to obtain their acceptance, but in no case would they employ force.

From the above therefore it results that Admirals Parker and Baudin had not instructions to menace the King of Naples with war nor act hostilely against him, even should his troops have gone a step further and consented to occupy many communes which were begging for troops within their walls, in order to put a stop to the anarchy by which they were oppressed.

Notwithstanding, the steps taken by the Admirals prove that they perfectly understood the intentions of their respective Governments, for they have been approved by them, and have moreover received orders to persist in the same attitude of hostility while friendly negotiations were going on.

If this was done from motives of humanity, certainly never was more unsatisfactory result obtained by more laudable desire, because as I had determined that in consequence of the violent resistance offered by the revolvers of Sicily who had all united in Messina, from the beginning of September 1848, the same violence should be used in attacking them, and the success of this attack had produced such an effect in the whole of Sicily, that I should without doubt have arrived at Palermo without firing a shot before the end of September. On arriving I should have occupied the roads by which provisions are brought into that great city, I should have cut off the water, occupied the mills, and blockaded the port, and at the end of eight days the numerous population of Palermo would not only have opened their gates, but would have implored as a favour the peaceable entry of my troops into the town. Instead of this the hostile intervention of the naval forces of England and France, and all that has taken place since the 11th September, has excited so many hopes, so many illusions, has caused so many fatal errors, that my march now on Palermo can scarcely be a harmless one, as it would certainly have been without the declaration of Messrs. Nonay and Robb in the name of their respective Admirals, who since their conduct has been approved of are of course freed from all responsibility.

This responsibility their respective Ministers have entirely assumed; and I may now be allowed to say that the Governments of the French Republic and Great Britain have disposed of their naval forces for the direct purpose of protecting anarchy and preventing the King of Naples from forcing his Sicilian subjects to return under his legitimate authority, the immense majority of whom do not aspire to aught but peace and repose.

In declaring also that in no case would force be employed to compel the revolvers of Palermo to accept the conditions of peace, I cannot discover the good offices which France intends to use to bring the Sicilian Question to a conclusion, notwithstanding the exquisite urbanity of form in which that declaration is clothed.

I therefore asked myself why all this benignity towards rebels, and this firm resolution to prevent the King of Naples from causing his troops to advance and put down his erring subjects, and thereby afford calm and protection to the good and tranquil who so fervently implore it?

Lastly, the Undersigned hopes that your Excellency will see the necessity of putting an end immediately to these negotiations, because any ulterior protraction of them would do great damage to the interests of His Sicilian Majesty; and the more so because the King my master is now disposed, as he always has been, equally with the most liberal Sovereigns to concede those Constitutional franchises which may secure the happiness of his Sicilian subjects; but if on the other hand a part of them were to continue in their rebellion, the King my august master would not be able to console himself, except from his firm conviction that it would not be from any fault of his that Sicily remains deprived of the advantages which spring from a liberal Government, and also from the desire which he nourishes in his Royal mind to enable them to use and enjoy the national rights which spring from them.

And if His Majesty refuses to consent to the formation of an army exclusively Sicilian, this arises from the necessary persuasion in which we all are that such a separation of the land and naval force of the Two Sicilies would be the cause of fatal consequences, which, instead of bringing about a stable reconciliation, would produce no other effect than to prepare new and perhaps more bloody discords at a period more or less near.

The Undersigned does not see anything else in your Excellency's note of

December 29th which he is bound to answer, because he exhausted his arguments about the Duke of Rivas in his note from Messina.

Inclosed, the Undersigned has the honour to transmit to your Excellency the copy of a note on this subject of the same date, which he has sent to the Minister of Great Britain at the Royal Court of the Two Sicilies, and avails, &c.

(Signed) PRINCE SATRIANO.

No. 384.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 3.)

(Extract.)

Naples, February 22, 1849

I INCLOSE to your Lordship copies of three despatches which I have received from Mr. Goodwin on Sicilian affairs.

I have not thought it right to accede to the request contained in Mr. Goodwin's despatch that I should be the means of paying the Sicilian prisoners at Naples, as it appears to me that it is a matter with which I could not properly interfere.

Inclosure 1 in No. 384.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Palermo, February 2, 1849.

IN continuation of my despatch of 22nd January I have the honour to state that Conte Michele Amari, formerly a sub-Intendente at Naples, has been appointed Minister of Finance, in the room of Cordova, whose resignation has been reluctantly accepted. A second forced loan of 100,000 oz. has been imposed upon Palermo; 60,000 oz. have already been paid, and the remainder will be paid shortly. A first forced loan of 800,000 oz. has been imposed on the interior and made payable within fifteen days.

General Antonini will take his departure for Leghorn to-morrow and will not return to Sicily.

The flags of the National Guard were blessed on Sunday last in the Palace Square. The Austrian Consul-General was the only one of our corps who attended the ceremony. The French Consul was unwell, and I was at church.

This Government is desirous to pay the prisoners at Naples through your means; your acquiescence in their wishes, if not inconvenient, would lay the Ministers under great obligations for your kindness.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JNO. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 384.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Palermo, February 8, 1849.

MR. JEANS has noticed an article in "Galigiani's Messenger" of the 4th January, wherein it is stated by the correspondent of the "Times," that he is told that British agents are at work in Sicily inducing the municipalities of all the towns within the insurgent lines to make declarations of independence and protestations against the renewal of the King's authority; that it is difficult to believe that British authorities interfere in such matters, but that his short experience in Sicily showed that many of these gentlemen had exceeded their duty, and that it is evident that the insurrection reached its present height in consequence of the encouragement given by French and English responsible agents.

Mr. Jeans protests most solemnly against the supposition that there is any ground for or truth in such an assertion as regards the Vice-Consulate of Catania, and asserts most confidently that any declaration of independence, or protestation against the renewal of the King's authority, from the municipalities of the Province of Catania have proceeded from a general feeling in favour of such sentiments, and in no instance in consequence of encouragement from British responsible or irresponsible agents; and he requests me to forward to you a copy of such protestation and assertion as a positive denial of any participation in the proceedings imputed by the "Times" correspondent to British agents in Sicily.

I have great pleasure in thus complying with his request, and I beg to add my belief that every other British agent in Sicily might make the same declaration with that which has been made by Mr. Jeans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 384.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Palermo, February 9, 1849.

VICE-CONSUL JEANS writes as follows under date of 31st January:—

"I am happy to be able to bear testimony to the tranquillity of this place, and of the province generally. Trade seems thriving, and I see no symptoms of want or of discontent. There seems to be here a general wish for a speedy settlement of the dispute with Naples. People are beginning to be tired of the existing state of uncertainty; but I do not find in any one a greater desire than formerly to return to Neapolitan rule."

The case is the same at Marsala with regard to the state of trade and the condition of the people. Robberies of cattle are however frequent, and property in general is insecure.

There also a desire for a speedy settlement prevails. Here, as at Catania, the city is quiet and trade is flourishing, but the desire for a settlement is weaker and less prevalent.

The remainder of the second loan imposed upon Palermo, namely, 45,000 oz. has been paid, so that 205,000 oz. have been drawn from the capital within two months. A large portion of the first loan on the provinces of 800,000 oz. has likewise been paid, and the remainder is in course of collection.

Vice-Consul Jeans writes further, under date of the 7th February:—

"You will see from the Trade Returns for 1848 that notwithstanding the convulsed state of this country during the past year, both the home and foreign trade have increased here. The exports have augmented very considerably, the amount for 1847, including the trade of Riposto, was 75,290 £; that for 1848, exclusive of the trade of Riposto, was 91,170 £, being an increase of one-fifth. This may be accounted for by the abundant harvest with which this province was favoured. The imports in 1848 are also considerably increased. A large quantity has been received direct since the capture of Messina, instead of being received as formerly through the porto franco of that city. Altogether the present returns (on which great pains have been bestowed to ensure correctness) will show that notwithstanding what has been said and written against the present state of affairs in Sicily, in this province at least trade has not in any way suffered.

"The whole of the forced loan for Catania has been paid up, or if not actually received by the collector it is only from want of time to go through the counting. The example of Catania is likely to be followed by Cattagironne and other large towns of the province."

The Torre Arsa Ministry, defeated in the Commons in a bill for internal security, has resigned. Scordia is said to have undertaken the task of forming a new Administration. No change of foreign policy is expected to take place under the Government of Scordia.

February 12. The President having applied to all the members of Opposition to form a new Cabinet, without success, has had recourse to Scordia, who has

undertaken the task under promising auspices. He has desired to have the whole of this day for the purpose of negotiation, and his desire had been gratified by the President.

The Queen's speech has been received with pleasure and read with the liveliest satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

No. 385.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 3.)

My Lord,

Naples, February 23, 1849.

I INCLOSE to your Lordship a copy and translation of the draft of a note which Prince Satriano proposed to address to the French Minister and myself, containing the terms which the Neapolitan Government were willing to offer to the Sicilians, but he submitted it to us previously for our consideration.

M. de Rayneval and myself thought that it would be desirable to consult with the English and French Admirals upon the subject, and accordingly we met at my house for that purpose.

We agreed that the political institutions mentioned in the first article should be understood to mean the Constitution of 1812, with such modifications only as circumstances may render necessary, but which should not diminish the liberties of the Sicilian people.

The King objects to any mention of the Royal Family being made with respect to the appointment of a Viceroy; and also to the limitation of his choice, though he would name a Sicilian in preference.

With respect to the third article, the common expenses were not specified, as it was thought better to leave them to be subsequently decided upon between the two Governments of Naples and Sicily, as otherwise they would lead to a protracted discussion.

In addition to this the King requires an indemnity for the expenses caused by the revolt of the Sicilians, which is calculated at 1,500,000 ducats; it is proposed that this sum should be paid by an annual instalment of 100,000 ducats, but the wording is not such as to wound the feelings of the Sicilians.

The King also claims the payment of an old debt which he says is due from Sicily to Naples.

The most objectionable article is that which proposes that the fort of Palermo should be garrisoned by a Neapolitan force. The Admirals very justly say that they could have no hope of the terms they might offer being listened to, were they to propose such a condition. Having made known our observations to Prince Satriano he undertook to lay them before the King, and the Prince has subsequently communicated to us the observations of the King contained in a paper of which I also inclose a copy and translation.

On conferring with the Admirals we have thought that it would be desirable to have an interview with the King himself in the hope of inducing him to abstain from garrisoning the fort of Palermo, unless the local authorities should ask for such a measure for their own security, and we propose going to Gaeta to-morrow for that purpose.

Your Lordship will see that Prince Satriano threatens to recommence hostilities if further delay takes place in the settlement of the question, and it would be desirable that the proposal of the King, whatever it may be, should be made known at Palermo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure I in No. 385.

Conditions Proposed to be offered by the King of Naples to the Sicilians.

Eccellenza,

Napoli, Febbrajo 1849.

IL Sottoscritto, sempre animato al pari de' Rappresentanti della Repubblica Francese e di Sua Maestà la Regina della Gran Bretagna presso Sua Maestà il Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie, del vivo desiderio di menare a buon fine la vertenza Siciliana, riguarda come di già rischiarati tutti i punti presi in esame durante le amichevoli conferenze i quali sono stati sì maturamente finora trattati verbalmente ed in iscritto. Crede egli dunque che per venire alla esecuzione di quanto i rispettivi Governi hanno escogitato a fin di vedere restituita la pace e la unione fra le due parti del Reame delle Due Sicilie che il Faro separa, sarebbe opportuno che, col pieno assezo degli Inviati delle due Grandi Potenze, i Signori Ammiragli Baudin e Parker recassero a Palermo le seguenti coocessioni dal Rè ai Siciliani largite.

1°. Istituzioni politiche separate, e speciale Parlamento.

In sua assenza il Rè presceglierebbe per rappresentarlo un Vice-Rè, il quale verrebbe munito di quelle attribuzioni e di quei poteri che dal Sovrano sarebbero determinati.

2°. L'amministrazione interna sarebbe affatto separata, il che importa la cessazione di ogni promiscuità d'impiegati negli ordini civili, cioè, in Sicilia tutti gli uffizj non sarebbero oè potrebbero essere occupati se non da soli Siciliani, e questi dal Rè scelti e nominati nei rispettivi impieghi.

3°. Stato discusso interamente separato, e le spese comuni alle Due Sicilie rimarrebbero ripartite fra le due parti del reame oella proporzione numerica dei loro abitanti, oppure verrebbero fissate a 3 milioni annuali di ducati.

A depiù delle sudette spese comuni, centomila ducati all'anno sarebbero per quindici anni consecutivi destinati a far fronte in parte alla spesa straordinaria cui han dato luogo gli avvenimenti degli anni 1848 e 1849.

4°. Amnistia piena ed intera sarebbe concessa.

5°. Sua Maestà Siciliana vuole che le sue Reali truppe oltre i punti che sono ora dalle stesse occupati, tengan guarnigione in Siracusa, Trapani, Palermo, e Forte di Catania, e spera il Rè che niuna turbolenza l'obbligherà a fare agire altrove le sue truppe.

6°. Tali concessioni s'intendono come noo mai avvenute, nè promesse, nè fatte, qualora la Sicilia non si sottometta immediatamente all'autorità del legittimo Sovrano, poichè se dovesse il Real esercito militarmente agire per rioccupar quella parte dei Reali dominj, la stessa si esporrebbe a tutti i danni della guerra, ed a perdere tutti i vantaggi che le assicurano le presenti concessioni.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Naples, February , 1849.

THE Undersigned, who is always actuated, equally with the Representatives of the French Republic and of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain accredited to His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, with a lively desire to bring the Sicilian Question to a satisfactory conclusion, considers as already clearly explained all the subjects which have been examined during the friendly conferences, which subjects have been up to the present time so maturely discussed both in conversation and in writing.

He considers therefore that in order to put in execution what has been decided on by the respective Governments, as to the manner of restoring peace and concord between the two portions of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies which the Faro divides, it would be well that Admirals Baudin and Parker should, with the full consent of the Ministers of the two Powers, convey to Palermo the following coocessions which the King grants to the Sicilians.

1. Separate political institutions, and a separate Parliament. In his absence the King will choose a Viceroy for his representative, who will be invested with such qualifications and powers as the King shall determine.

2. The internal administration is to be entirely separate, which means that the selection of persons to fill civil offices shall no longer, as heretofore, be promiscuous amongst Neapolitans and Sicilians, that is, in Sicily no office shall be, nor can be, filled except by Sicilians alone. These officers shall be selected by the King and appointed by him to their respective employments.

3. The budget shall be entirely separate, and the common expenses of the Two Sicilies shall be divided between the two parts of the kingdom, according to the numerical proportion of their inhabitants, or shall be fixed at 3,000,000 ducats annually.

In addition to the above-mentioned common expenses, 100,000 ducats a-year shall be for fifteen years consecutively devoted to the part payment of the extraordinary expenses to which the events of the years 1848 and 1849 have given rise.

4. A full and entire amnesty shall be conceded.

5. His Sicilian Majesty wills that his Royal troops shall garrison Syracuse, Trapani, Palermo, and Forte di Catania, besides those places now occupied by them, and the King trusts that no turbulence will oblige him to cause his troops to act elsewhere.

6. These concessions are to be considered as never having been granted, or promised, or made, if Sicily does not submit itself immediately to the authority of its legitimate Sovereign, because if the Royal army be obliged to use active measures for the re-occupation of that part of the Royal dominions, Sicily would expose itself to all the injuries of the war, and to the loss of all the advantages which the present concessions ensure to it.

Inclosure 2 in No. 385.

Observations on the proposed Conditions offered by the King of Naples to the Sicilians.

1°. LE modifiche alla Costituzione del 1812 imposte dalle condizioni novelle cui tutte le società umane debbono andare soggette in un periodo di 37 anni, saranno presentate domani.

2°. L'Articolo terzo Sua Maestà desidera che rimanga come fu da lui stesso dettato, poichè in tal guisa non presenta nè dubbj nè ambiguità, e chi è come il Rè deciso ad attendere religiosamente quel che promette ha il dritto di pretendere che tutto sia enunziato in modo chiaro e da evitare cavilli e false interpretazioni. Se trascurasse egli nella presente congiuntura siffatto obbligo, i Siciliani del continente avrebbero a dolersi di aver egli ommesso un reclamo che tanto interessa il Tesoro di Napoli, o di averlo dichiarato in modo oscuro e tale da compromettere l'incasso del più giusto di tutti i crediti.

3°. Lo escludersi una guarnigione militare da Palermo sembra a Sua Maestà una cosa non punto eseguibile nel fatto.

In primo luogo, perchè la Costituzione del 1812, al pari di quella Inglese, non ammette Guardia Nazionale, e però quella di Palermo, come ogni altra dell' isola, devesi sciogliere.

In secondo luogo le truppe collettizie sorte dalla ribellione debbonsi congedare appena la Sicilia rientrerà nella obbedienza del legittimo Sovrano.

Per queste due ragioni verrebbe a lasciarsi la capitale della Sicilia affatto priva della forza necessaria alla tutela delle persone, delle proprietà e dell' ordine publico. Il Rè crederebbe mancare al primo dei suoi doveri prestando la sua adesione ad una combinazione secondo lui impossibile nella sua esecuzione, e che esporrebbe quella metropoli a tutti gli orrori della anarchia.

Come il ritardo che risulterebbe da questa novella pretesa prolungherebbe il tempo di cui i ribelli con tanta operosità profitano per ricevere più armi portatili, più cannoni, più soldati ed uffiziali stranieri, e per aumentare considerevolmente le loro forze navali; dalla cennata pretesa dunque non recedendosi, io sarei nell' obbligo di chiedere al Rè la permissione di denunziare immediatamente l'armistizio e riprendere le ostilità.

(Translation.)

1. THE modifications in the Constitution of 1812, rendered necessary by the changes to which all human society is subject in a period of thirty-seven years, shall be presented to-morrow.

2. His Majesty wishes Article 3rd to remain as it was drawn up by him, because in that shape it presents neither doubts nor ambiguities, and whoever, like the King, is determined to observe religiously all that he promises, has the right to require that everything should be expressed in a clear manner, so as to avoid cavilling and false interpretations. Were he to neglect this obligation under the present circumstances, the Sicilians of the contioent would have a right to complain that he had omitted a claim of so much importance to the Neapolitan Treasury, or that he had explained it in an obscure manner so as to render doubtful the liquidation of the most just of all credits.

3. The exclusion of a military garrison from Palermo seems to the King to be utterly impracticable.

In the first place, because the Constitution of 1812, like the English Constitution, does not admit of a National Guard, and therefore that of Palermo, as well as every other in the island must be disbanded.

In the second place all the troops which have been got together during the rebellion must be disbanded as soon as Sicily shall have returned to the obedience of its legitimate Sovereign.

For these two reasons the capital of Sicily would be left entirely without the force necessary for the protection of persons, property, and public order. The King would consider himself wanting with regard to the most important of his duties, were he to consent to an arrangement which in his opinion is impracticable, and which would expose that metropolis to all the horrors of anarchy.

The delay resulting from this new demand would involve loss of time, which the rebels turn to profit with such activity, by receiving fresh supplies of small arms, of cannons, foreign soldiers and officers, and by considerably increasing their naval forces, so that if this pretension be persisted in, I shall be under the necessity of requesting permission from the King to declare the termination of the armistice, and to resume hostilities.

No. 386.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 8, 1849.

YOUR despatches to that of the 23rd ultimo inclusive were received at this office on the 3rd instant and have been laid before the Queen.

I have to acquaint you with reference to your despatch of the 22nd ultimo, that I approve of your having declined to be the channel through which the allowances to the Sicilian prisoners at Naples should be paid.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 387.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. W. Temple.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, March 8, 1849.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Goodwin's despatch of the 8th of February, of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I have to state to you that Mr. Consul Goodwin's disclaimer for himself and other British Consular Agents in Sicily of having afforded any encouragement to the insurrection in that island, as they were alleged by an anonymous writer in the "Times" newspaper to have done, is quite satisfactory.

No. 388.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 9, 1849.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 23rd ultimo, I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve of your having concurred with Sir William Parker and Admiral Baudin in objecting to the demand made by Prince Satriano that there should be a Neapolitan garrison in Palermo, and of your having determined to proceed in conjunction with M. de Rayneval and the two Admirals to Gaeta, in order to endeavour to prevail upon the King of Naples to desist from that demand.

There seems to be but little likelihood that the Sicilians would agree to have a Neapolitan garrison in the city in which their Parliament is to be assembled, and they might with reason allege that, so situated, their Parliament could scarcely consider itself free in its deliberations.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 389.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

(Extract)

Admiralty, March 16, 1849.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, dated the 4th instant, and of its inclosures, reporting his intended departure with the squadron (accompanied by Vice-Admiral Baudin) for Palermo, with His Sicilian Majesty's ultimatum for the settlement of the differences between the Neapolitans and Sicilians.

Inclosure 1 in No. 389.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, March 4, 1849.

MR. TEMPLE, Her Majesty's Minister, and M. Rayneval, Minister of the French Government at the Court of Naples, who have been mediating for an adjustment of the differences between the Neapolitans and Sicilians, having now received His Sicilian Majesty's ultimatum, the terms of which are considered reasonable for acceptance by the Sicilians, I beg you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I propose to put to sea with the ships named in the margin* this afternoon, or as soon as I receive Mr. Temple's despatches, for the purpose of proceeding to Palermo to present the conditions to the Sicilian Government, and to endeavour to effectuate their acceptance.

The modified terms now offered have not been brought to their present state without much discussion and strong but respectful representations to King Ferdinand.

Mr. Temple, M. Rayneval, and Vice-Admiral Baudin accompanied me in the "Terrible" to Gaeta on the 26th ultimo, for the purpose of expressing to His Majesty our decided opinion of the futility of any attempt to bring the Sicilians under allegiance to their King, while the Neapolitan Government persisted in their intention of placing a Neapolitan garrison in the citadel of Palermo and disarming the National Guard, which had been insisted on by Prince Satriano.

* *Hibernia, Queen, Powerful, Terrible.* The *Powerful* arrived at Naples this morning from Gibraltar.

These points and the declaration of a general amnesty were strongly urged on His Majesty as essential for the attainment of a reconciliation.

Some minor points were likewise recommended to assimilate the Constitution proposed by His Majesty as much as possible to that of 1812, for the restoration of which the Sicilians have always strenuously contended.

His Majesty's reception and acquiescence in our suggestions left us no doubt that the alterations above alluded to would be adopted.

We were startled however a few days afterwards by a list of exceptions to the amnesty being handed in by Prince Satriano, which comprised the names of no less than forty-four of the principal Sicilian nobility and respectable persons who had taken part in the revolt.

Considering that such an extensive proscription would render the chance of a peaceable arrangement hopeless, and that it would be incompatible with the positions which Admiral Baudin and myself respectively hold, to be the bearers of such terms to Palermo, it was judged expedient on consultation with the Ministers, that the Admiral and myself should request another interview with His Majesty to submit our sentiments on the subject.

We accordingly proceeded yesterday, and I have now the satisfaction of reporting with a very favourable result.

His Majesty received us very graciously, assuring us that he had not been made acquainted with either the names or number of the persons to whom exceptions were taken.

He had always wished the number to be as small as possible, and was quite ready to abandon it altogether, and to prove in every way his desire to show clemency and forgiveness, with oblivion for the past.

We explicitly submitted that the amnesty should be general and without reservation, and His Majesty was pleased to say that he left this point in our hands.

I have now the honour to inclose a printed copy of the King's Proclamation to His Sicilian subjects, also of Prince Satriano's note to the mediating Ministers.

I shall be very much gratified if the measures in which I have participated on this occasion meet their Lordships' approbation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 389.

Prince Satriano to the Hon. W. Temple.

Napoli, 28 febbrajo, 1849.

IL Sottoscritto, sempre animato, al pari dei Rappresentanti di Sua Maestà la Regina della Gran Bretagna e della Repubblica Francese presso Sua Maestà il Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie, dal vivo desiderio di menare a buon fine la vertenza Siciliana, riguarda come di già rischiarati tutt' i punti presi in esame durante le amichevoli conferenze. i quali sono stati sì maturamente finora trattati verbalmente ed in iscritto. Crede egli dunque che per venire alla esecuzione di quanto i rispettivi Governi hanno escogitato affin di veder restituita la pace e la unione fra le due parti del Reame delle Due Sicilie che il Faro separa, sarebbe opportuno che col pieno assenso degl' Inviati delle due Grandi Potenze, i Signori Ammiragli Parker e Baudin recassero a Palermo le seguenti concessioni dal Rè ai Siciliani largite:

1. Istituzioni politiche separate, e speciale Parlamento.

In sua assenza il Rè proscieglierebbe per rappresentarlo un Vice-Ré, il quale verrebbe munito di quelle attribuzioni e di que' poteri che dal Sovrano sarebbero determinati.

2. L'amministrazione interna sarebbe affatto separata, il che importa la cessazione di ogni promiscuità d'impiegati negli ordini civili, cioè in Sicilia tutti gli uffizi non sarebbero nè potrebbero essere occupati se non da soli Siciliani, e questi dal Rè scelti e nominati ne' rispettivi impieghi.

3. Stato discusso intieramente separato e le spese comuni alle Due Sicilie rimarrebbero ripartite fra le due parti del reame nella proporzione numerica de'

loro abitanti, oppure verrebbero fissate a tre milioni annuali di ducati. Gli esiti straordinari a carico della tesoreria di Napoli cui han dato luogo gli avvenimenti degli anni 1848 e 1849, valutandosi molto al di sotto del loro importo a tutto il corrente mese, fissansi ad un milione e mezzo di ducati. Unendosi tale somma a quella di cui va creditrice la tesoreria stessa di Napoli contro quella della Sicilia, formerà questo insieme un debito della Sicilia, il quale venendo consolidato mercè la emissione di una rendita iscritta con la corrispondente dote di ammortizzazione, darebbe il capitale necessario per saldare siffatti avanzi del tesoro Napolitano col minore incomodo per la Sicilia.

Quanto è mentovato ne' tre precedenti paragrafi trovasi più amplamente determinato nei 56 Articoli, i quali contengono le basi dello Statuto che il Rè del Regno delle Due Sicilie concede a' suoi sudditi ultra Faro. Siffatti 56 Articoli, sono compresi nel proclama che il Sottoscritto si onora qui annesso trasmettere all' Eccellenza vostra. Di questo si stanno tirando tremila copie, le quali verranno consegnate ai Signori Ammiragli, affinchè nel recarsi in Palermo ne facciano l'uso che reputeranno più utile e conveniente.

4. Amnistia piena ed intiera sarebbe concessa. I Signori Ammiragli saranno pregati d' invitare gl'individui compresi nella qui acciusa nota, de' quali la presenza potrebb'essere causa di perturbazione, ad allontanarsi momentaneamente, e ciò finchè la tranquillità non sarà ristabilita.

5. Sua Maestà Siciliana vuole che le sue reali truppe oltre i punti che sono ora dalle stesse occupati, tengan guarnigione in Siracusa, Trapani, e forti di Catania, e spera il Rè che niuna turbolenza l'obbligherà a fare agire altrove le sue truppe.

Per quanto poi concerne la sola Palermo, il Rè consente ad affidare provvisoriamente collà il mantenimento dell' ordine alla Guardia Nazionale della città, bene inteso che la Maestà Sua ivi stabilirebbe militare guarnigione qualora la sudetta Guardia Nazionale si ravvisasse insufficiente per tutelare le persone e le proprietà, per fare rispettare le leggi e le autorità preposte alla loro esecuzione; tal caso verificandosi, la sudetta Guardia Nazionale verrebbe disciolta.

6. Tali concessioni s'intendono come non mai avvenute, nè promesse, nè fatte, qualora la Sicilia non si sottometta immediatamente all' autorità del legittimo Sovrano, poichè se dovesse il real esercito militarmente agire per riacquistar quella parte de' reali dominj, la stessa si esporrebbe a tutt' i danni della guerra, ed a perdere tutt' i vantaggi che assicurano le presenti concessioni.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Firmato)

IL PRINCIPE DI SATRIANO.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Naples, February 28, 1849.

THE Undersigned, being equally animated with the Representatives of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and of the French Republic accredited to His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, by a lively desire to bring the Sicilian Question to a satisfactory conclusion, considers as being already satisfactorily explained, all those points which were under consideration during the late friendly conferences, and which have been so maturely discussed both verbally and in writing.

He considers therefore that in order to carry out the views of the respective Governments as to the means of restoring peace and union between the two parts of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies which the Faro separates, it would be well for Admirals Parker and Baudin, with the full consent of their respective Envoys, to carry to Palermo the following concessions:

1st. Separate political institutions and separate Parliament.

In his absence the King will choose a Viceroys for his representative, who will be invested with such attributes and powers as may be determined upon by the King.

2nd. The internal administration is to be completely separate, which means that the selection of persons to fill civil offices shall no longer be as heretofore, promiscuous among Neapolitans and Sicilians, that is to say, that in Sicily no office shall be nor can be filled except by Sicilians alone. These officers shall be selected by the King and appointed by him to their respective employments.

3rd. The budget shall be entirely separated and the expenses common to

the Two Sicilies shall be divided between the two parts of the kingdom, according to the numerical proportion of their inhabitants, or shall be fixed at three millions of ducats annually.

The extraordinary disbursements of the Treasury of Naples to which the events of the year 1848 and 1849 have given rise, calculated much below their real extent, amount up to the present month to 1,500,000 ducats. If this sum be added to that now owing to the Treasury of Naples it would collectively form a debt which if consolidated by means of the issue of stock to that amount, with the establishment of a corresponding sinking fund, would afford the capital necessary for paying off such debt due to the Neapolitan Treasury with the least possible inconvenience to Sicily.

All that has been mentioned in the three preceding paragraphs will be found more fully specified in the fifty-six articles which contain the basis of the Statute which the King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies concedes to his subjects beyond the Faro.

These fifty-six articles are comprised in the proclamation of which the Undersigned has now the honour to transmit a copy to your Excellency. Three thousand copies of this proclamation are now in the course of being printed, and will be given to the Admirals for them to make such use of as they may deem proper and expedient.

4th. A full and entire amnesty shall be conceded. The Admirals will be pleased to beg the individuals mentioned in the inclosed list, whose presence might promote disturbance, to absent themselves for the moment until tranquillity shall be restored.

5th. His Sicilian Majesty wills that his Royal troops shall garrison Syracuse, Trapani, and Forte di Catania, besides those places now occupied by them, and the King trusts that no disturbance will oblige him to cause his troops to act elsewhere.

As far as regards Palermo alone, the King consents to confide the maintenance of order for the present to the National Guard of the city, it being well understood that His Majesty will establish a military garrison there, should the National Guard find itself insufficient for the protection of persons and property, for securing respect for the laws and for the authorities appointed to watch over their execution, in which case the said National Guard would be disbanded.

6th. These concessions are to be considered as if they had never been granted, promised, or made, should Sicily not submit itself immediately to the authority of its legitimate Sovereign, for if the Royal army should be obliged to use military measures for the re-occupation of that part of the Royal dominions, Sicily would expose itself to all the calamities of the war, and to the loss of all the advantages which the present concessions will secure to it.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

P. SATRIANO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 389.

Proclamation of the King of Naples to the Sicilians.

Ferdinando II, &c.
Siciliani.

SE gli errori di pochi han potuto per un momento far traviare qualcuno fra voi dallo avito vostro attaccamento alla dinastia, che con tanto affetto presiede ai vostri destini da più di un secolo, Noi che avemmo culla fra voi, e non abbiain mai cessato di amarvi con tenerezza di padre, vogliamo non indugiar più oltre a dirvi che soddisfiamo ad un bisogno del nostro cuore, adempiamo al più caro dei doveri che impone a Noi l'augusta la santa nostra religione, assicurandovi che dimentichiamo, e risguardiamo come non avvenuti e non mai commessi i falli ed i reati politici che tanto male vi hanno recato dallo incominciar dello scorso anno 1848 in poi.

Ritornate quindi alle private vostre bisogne; coltivate in pace i vostri ubertosi campi; restituite alle terre di Cerere, mercede il vostro assiduo lavoro, l'antica loro fertilità, il che sempre la Divina Provvidenza concede all' uomo

come ricompensa di prescritto travaglio; ridonate alla vostra industria, al vostro traffico, ai vostri commerci, alla vostra navigazione mercantile la pristina attività; chiudete le orecchie alle seduzioni di coloro che cercano d'illudervi per menarvi alla sedizione, alla ribellione, e di là all'anarchia, che di quelle è la inevitabile conseguenza.

Dopo mature riflessioni ed accurata analisi de' vostri bisogni, e de' voti che possono con equità utilmente e praticamente soddisfarsi, ritenendo come non avvenuti e nulli di dritto e di fatto tutti gli atti i quali hanno avuto luogo in Sicilia dal 12 Gennajo, 1848, in poi concediamo alla stessa uno Statuto di cui è base la Costituzione del 1812, salvo le modificazioni richieste dalle mutate condizioni e dalla vigente legislazione.

Cotesto Statuto, che ci riserbiamo di formulare ampiamente prima della fine di Gigno del corrente anno, conterrà nella parte sostanziale le seguenti disposizioni:

1. La religione sarà unicamente e ad esclusione di qualunque altra, la Cattolica Apostolica Romana.

2. La libertà individuale è garantita, nessuno potendo essere arrestato o processato, che ne' casi preveduti dalle leggi e nelle forme da esse prescritte.

3. Nessuno può esser costretto a cedere la sua proprietà, se non per causa di utilità pubblica e previa indennità.

Una legge speciale sarà fatta dal Parlamento di accordo col Rè per determinare la competenza e la forma delle espropriazioni forzata per causa di utilità pubblica.

4. I Siciliani hanno il dritto di pubblicare e fare stampare le loro opinioni, conformandosi alle disposizioni che debbono reprimere gli abusi di questa libertà.

Il Rè riserva a se nella pienezza dei suoi poteri, di emanare siffatte disposizioni con una legge speciale.

5. La Sicilia continuando a far parte integrante dell'unità del Regno delle Due Sicilie sarà retta a Monarchia Costituzionale con la divisione de' poteri del modo che siegue.

Del Potere Esecutivo.

6. Il potere esecutivo si appartiene esclusivamente al Rè. La sua persona è sacra ed inviolabile.

7. Il Rè rappresenta la nazione presso le Potenze estere. Egli ha il dritto di far la guerra o la pace, e di proporre o concludere qualsivoglia trattato di pace, di alleanza e di commercio con le Potenze estere.

8. Esercita collettivamente col Parlamento la potestà legislativa, sanziona e promulga le leggi, e fa i regolamenti e le ordinanze necessarie per la esecuzione delle leggi e per la sicurezza dello Stato.

9. Convoca, proroga e scioglie il Parlamento.

10. Comanda e dispone di tutte le forze di mare e di terra.

11. Sovrintende al commercio interno ed esterno della Sicilia, ed a tutte le opere ed istruzioni pubbliche.

12. Nomina ed elegge i funzionari pubblici e gl' impiegati delle amministrazioni dello Stato.

13. Conferisce i titoli di nobiltà e le decorazioni, ed esercita il pieno dritto della grazia.

14. Conferisce tutti i benefizi ecclesiastici di Regio patronato, e fa le solite altre provviste e nomine ecclesiastiche.

15. Esercita secondo i Concordati la Legazia Apostolica Ereditaria.

16. L'atto solenne per l'ordine di successione alla Corona dell' Augusto Rè Carlo III, del 6 Ottobre, 1758, confermato dall' Augusto Rè Ferdinando I, nell' Articolo quinto della Legge degli 8 Dicembre, 1816, gli atti Sovrani del 7 di Aprile, 1822, del 12 di Marzo, 1836, e tutti gli atti relativi alla Real Famiglia, rimangono in pieno vigore.

17. Allorchè il Rè non vorrà risiedere in Sicilia, sarà rappresentato ivi da un Vicerè, con quelle attribuzioni e con que' poteri che verranno da lui determinata.

18. Vi saranno in Sicilia dei Ministri nel numero sufficiente fra' quali saranno divisi i ripartimenti:—

Di Grazia e Giustizia,
Dell' Interno,

Delle Finanze,
De' Lavori Pubblici,
Dell' Agricoltura e Commercio,
Degli Affari Ecclesiastici,
Della Istruzione Pubblica e della Polizia.

La Costituzione serbando al Rè la disposizione delle forze di terra e di mare e la direzione suprema delle relazioni estere, non saranvi per tutta la Monarchia che un sol Ministro di Guerra e Marina ed un sol Ministro di Affari Esteri entrambi residenti presso del Rè. Le quistioni militari o internazionali che potessero presentarsi sarebbero trattate per delegazione del Rè, sia dal Vicerè, sia da uno dei Ministri.

19. Risiederà inoltre presso il Rè un Ministro per gli affari di Sicilia.

20. I Ministri comporranno il Consiglio privato, al quale è in arbitrio del Rè di aggiungere uno o più Consiglieri di Stato.

21. I predetti Ministri contrassegneranno o collettivamente, o ciascuno per gli affari del proprio ministero, tutti gli atti del potere esecutivo.

22. I Ministri saranno responsabili.

23. Il Rè non potrà far grazia ai Ministri condannati, se non sulla esplicita domanda di una delle due Camere Legislative.

24. L'amministrazione della giustizia e tutte le altre amministrazioni pubbliche saranno regolate con le leggi organiche in vigore, salvo al Parlamento d'accordo col Rè di portarvi quelle modificazioni che saran credute necessarie per coordinarle col presente Statuto, o per migliorarle.

25. Fino a che queste modificazioni non saranno fatte, le leggi, i decreti, e gli atti sovrani di presente in vigore saranno pienamente osservati tanto intorno alle circoscrizioni territoriali, e competenze giurisdizionali, dipendenze gerarchiche e guarantee, quanto in tutte e singole parti delle loro disposizioni.

26. L'ordine giudiziario sarà indipendente. I magistrati collegiati saranno inamovibili dopo tre anni di lodevole esercizio, a contare dalla data della loro elezione definitiva.

27. Gli Agenti del Pubblico Ministero presso le Corti ed i Tribunali sono essenzialmente amovibili.

28. I Giudici anche eletti a vita potranno essere traslocati.

Il tutto in conformità della Legge organica del 7 Giugno, 1819.

29. Cessata ogni promiscuità d'impieghi tra Napoli e Sicilia, i Ministri i funzionari pubblici, e tutti gl' impiegati delle Amministrazioni, saranno Siciliani, come anche tutt' i benefizi e dignità ecclesiastiche, le quali si avranno d'ora innanzi a provvedere, saranno conferiti nei soli Siciliani.

30. Lo stato discusso sarà interamente separato, e le spese comuni alle Due Sicilie rimangono ripartite fra le due parti del reame nella proporzione numerica de' loro abitanti, oppure verranno fissate a 3,000,000 annuali di ducati.

31. Inoltre gli esiti straordinari a carico della Tesoreria di Napoli cui hanno dato luogo gli avvenimenti degli anni 1848 e 1849, valutandosi molto al di sotto del loro importo fissansi a cinquecentomila once. Unendosi tale somma a quella di cui va creditrice la Tesoreria stessa di Napoli formeranno queste somme un debito della Sicilia, il quale venendo consolidato, mercè la emissione di una rendita iscritta con la corrispondente dote di ammortizzazione, darebbe il capitale necessario per saldare siffatti avanzi del tesoro Napoletano. Parimenti i debiti della Sicilia anteriormente al dì 12 Gennaio, 1848, contratti, e quelli posteriori restano a carico del tesoro della Sicilia stessa.

32. I Siciliani concorreranno nella proporzione medesima della popolazione agl' impieghi diplomatici. Gli altri impieghi pagati sulle spese comuni saranno indistintamente conferiti ai Siciliani ed Napoletani.

Del Parlamento.

33. Il Parlamento di Sicilia sarà composto di due Camere, una detta dei Pari, e l'altra de' Comuni.

34. La sua durata sarà di quattro anni dal giorno della sua convocazione. Al compir de' quattro anni cesserà di dritto.

35. Nel caso di scioglimento e di proroga, il Parlamento sarà convocato entro un anno.

36. Le due Camere saranno convocate nel tempo medesimo, e cominceranno e finiranno nel tempo stesso le loro sessioni.

37. Il Parlamento eserciterà collettivamente col Rè la potestà legislativa. Esso avrà il dritto di imporre nuove tasse di ogni specie; e di alterare quelle già stabilite. Le imposizioni dirette si votano annualmente dalle Camere legislative. Le imposizioni indirette possono avere la durata di più anni.

38. Qualsivoglia proposta del Parlamento, comprese quelle delle tasse e de' sussidi non avrà forza di legge, se non dopo la sanzione del Rè.

39. La formola del *Placet* esprimerà la sanzione; quella del *Veto* esprimerà il rigetto.

40. Le proposte non saranno sottomesse alla sanzione del Rè, se non dopo di essere consentite dalle due Camere.

41. Una proposta rigettata in una delle due Camere non potrà essere riproposta che nella sessione dell'anno seguente.

42. Ciascuna delle due Camere giudicherà inappellabilmente delle condizioni di eleggibilità de' suoi membri.

43. Le discussioni delle Camere saranno pubbliche, tranne che si costituissero in comitato segreto.

44. Nessun membro delle due Camere potrà essere molestato, processato, o punito per qualunque cosa sia stata detta, fatta, discussa, o deliberata nella rispettiva Camera, analogamente alla Costituzione e senza violazione dello Statuto, salvo alla Camera medesima di prender conoscenza degli eccessi che i membri potessero in essa commettere, e di punirne gli autori con voto di censura, e nei casi più gravi col divieto d'intervenirvi.

Della Camera de' Pari.

45. I Pari saranno nominati a vita dal Rè. Il loro numero sarà illimitato.

46. Nessuno può essere eletto Pari, se non avrà compiuto gli anni quaranta.

47. La Camera de' Pari in seguito di un Ordinanza Reale si costituirà in Alta Corte di Giustizia per conoscere dei reati di alto tradimento e di attentato alla sicurezza dello Statuto, di cui possano essere imputati i componenti di ambedue le Camere Legislative. Il Rè destinerà il magistrato che dovrà funzionare da Pubblico Ministero.

48. Assembramento qualunque della Camera dei Pari fuori il tempo della sessione della Camera de' Comuni è illecito e nullo di pieno dritto; tranne il caso contemplato nell'Articolo precedente.

Della Camera de' Comuni.

49. La Camera de' Comuni si comporrà de' Deputati de' ventiquattro distretti, de' Deputati eletti dalle tre Università di Sicilia, Palermo, Messina e Catania, e da' Deputati de' Comuni secondo il numero stabilito nella Costituzione del 1812.

50. I Comuni i quali per la lor cresciuta popolazione avessero acquistato il dritto di eleggere un rappresentante e pur di eleggerne più d'uno, e quelle popolazioni che dopo il 1812 essendo state erette in comune hanno il numero di abitanti stabilito dalla predetta Costituzione, potranno indirizzare la loro dimanda alla Camera dei Comuni la quale riconoscerà ne' modi legali la verità dell'esposto.

51. Concorrendo le due Camere nel voto favorevole, ed ottenuta la sanzione Reale, il Ministro dell'Interno darà gli ordini per le operazioni di risulta.

52. Il modo di effettuarsi l'elezioni de' rappresentanti sarà quello stesso che fu stabilito dalla Costituzione del 1812, se non che essendo già aboliti e soppressi gli uffizi pubblici, per organo de' quali si procedeva alle elezioni, il Rè si riserva di designare i funzionari pubblici che ne faranno le veci.

Degli Elettori.

53. I rappresentanti di un distretto nella Camera de' Comuni saranno eletti da tutti coloro i quali possederanno nello stesso distretto una rendita netta, vitalizia, almeno di once diciotto all'anno, sia che la stessa provenga da diretto od utile dominio, o per qualunque censo, rendita iscritta inumobilizzata, tande, o simili sorte di proprietà.

I rappresentanti della città di Palermo saranno eletti da tutti coloro i quali possederanno nella stessa città o suo territorio una rendita netta vitalizia, almeno di once cinquanta all'anno, sia che provenga da diretto od utile dominio, o

per qualunque censo, o per vendita iscritta immobilizzata, tande, e simili sorte di proprietà.

I rappreseotati di ogni altra città e terra parlamentaria saranno eletti da tutti coloro i quali possederanno nella stessa città o terre e suo territorio una rendita netta vitalizia almeno di once diciotto annuali, sia che pervenga da diretto o utile dominio, o per qualuque censo o rendita iscritta immobilizzata, tande, e simili sorte di proprietà.

54. Dal possesso dell'anzidetta rendita, e dall'obbligo di giustificarla sono solamente dispensati i Professori delle tre Università di Palermo, Messina e Catania, per la elezione dei rappresentanti delle stesse.

Degli Eligibili.

55. Potranno rappreseotare uo distretto quelli soltaoto i quali avranno in Sicilia una rendita netta e vitalizia che provvenga da diretto od utile domioio, da censo, da rendita iscritta immobilizzata, da tande, e simili sorte di proprietà, di ooce treceoto all'anno.

Potranno rappresentare la città di Palermo quelli soli i quali avranno in Sicilia uoa rendita come sopra di once cinquecento all'anno.

Potranno rappreseotare una città od una terra parlamentaria quelli soltaoto i quali avranno in Sicilia una reodita come sopra di once ceotocinquanto all'anno.

Se per rappresentare una delle università venissero eletti dei cattedratici, costoro soltanto saranno esenti dall'obbligo di giustificare la rendita per totti gli altri prescritta.

56. I funzionari pubblici non potranno essere eletti rappresentanti ne' distretti e ne' comuni compresi nell'ambito della loro giurisdizione.

Tali concessioni s'intendono come non mai avvenute, nè promesse, oè fatte, qualora la Sicilia non rientri immediatamente sotto l'autorità del legittimo Sovrano, poichè se dovesse il Real esercito militarmente agire per rioccupar quella parte de' Reali Domini, la stessa si esporrebbe a tutt' i daoni della guerra, ed a perdere i vantaggi che le assicurano le presenti concessiooi.

Gaeta, 28 Febbraio, 1849.

(Firmato) FERDINANDO.

(Translation.)

Ferdinand II, &c
Sicilians,

Gaeta, February 28, 1849.

IF the errors of a few have beeo able to make some of you deviate for a moment from your ancient attachmeot to the dynasty which has presided over your destinies for more than a century, we who were born amoogst you and have never ceased to love you with the tenderness of a father, can oo longer delay informing you that we are satisfyiog a wish of our heart and fulfilling the dearest of those duties which our august and holy religion imposes upoo us io assuring you thatwe forget those errors and political crimes which have done you so much harm from the beginoing of the year 1848, and regard them as if they had never been committed.

Return theo to your private occopations, cultivate your fruitful fields in peace, restore to the lands of Ceres through your assiduons labour their pristine fertility which Divine Providence always coocedes to man as a recompense for the labour imposed on him; restore to your industry, yoor traffic, your commerce, to your mercantile navigation, its pristine activity; shut your ears to the seductions of those who seek to deceive you aod to lead you o to sedition, rebellion, and from thence to anarchy, which is their ioevitable coosequence.

After mature reflection, and an accurate analysis of your wants and of those wishes which can with justice be gratified, both usefully and practically, considering all the acts which have taken place in Sicily from the 12th of January, 1848, up to the present time, to be null and of no effect, we grant to Sicily a Statute based on the Constitution of 1812, but with the modifications

required by the altered state of the world and the existing system of legislation.

This statute which we will present in a perfect form before the 1st of June of the current year, will contain in its substance the following articles:

1. The religion shall be solely and exclusively the Catholic Apostolic Roman.

2. Personal liberty is guaranteed; no one can be arrested or prosecuted excepting in cases provided for by law and according to the forms therein prescribed.

3. No one can be forced to give up his property except for the public good, and having received a previous indemnity.

A special law shall be made by the Parliament with the consent of the King, to fix the right and form of compulsory expropriations for the public good.

4. Sicilians have the right of publishing and printing their opinions, conforming themselves, however, to the regulations for repressing the abuses of this freedom. The King reserves to himself in the plenitude of his powers, the right to prescribe such regulations by a special law.

5. Sicily continuing to form an integral part of the unity of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, shall be constituted a Constitutional Monarchy, with a division of powers in the manner as follows:

Of the Executive Power.

6. The Executive power belongs exclusively to the King. His person is sacred and inviolable.

7. The King represents the nation with foreign Powers.

He has the right of making war and peace, and to propose or conclude any treaty of peace or alliance or of commerce with foreign Powers.

8. He exercises collectively with the Parliament, the legislative faculty, sanctions and promulgates the laws, and makes regulations and ordinances necessary for the execution of the laws and for the safety of the State.

9. He convokes, prorogues, and dissolves the Parliament.

10. He commands and disposes of all the forces by land and by sea.

11. He superintends the internal and external commerce of Sicily, and public works, and public instruction.

12. He names and appoints public functionaries, and those employed in the administrative departments of the State.

13. He confers titles of nobility and decorations and exercises a full power of pardoning offences.

14. He confers all ecclesiastical benefices in the Royal gift and makes the usual ecclesiastical appointments and nominations.

15. He exercises the hereditary Apostolic mandate according to the treaties with the Holy See.

16. The solemn act for the order of succession to the Crown issued by His August Majesty King Charles III on the 6th October, 1759, confirmed by His August Majesty King Ferdinand I, in the 5th Article of the Law of 8th December, 1816, the Sovereign Decrees of 7th April, 1829, of 12th March, 1836, and all the other acts relative to the Royal Family, remain in full vigour.

17. When the King does not reside in Sicily he shall be there represented by a Viceroy with those attributes and powers which shall be determined upon by His Majesty.

18. There shall be in Sicily Ministers in sufficient number, among whom shall be divided the departments

of Grace and Justice,
of the Interior,
of the Finances,
of Public Works,
of Agriculture and Commerce,
of Ecclesiastical Affairs, and
of Instruction and Police.

The Constitution reserving to the King the disposal of the forces by land and by sea, and the supreme direction of foreign relations, there shall be for

the whole Monarchy one Minister of War and Marine, and one Minister for Foreign Affairs both residing near the King's person.

Military or international questions which may arise shall be treated by the King by delegation, either through the Viceroy or through one of his Ministers.

19. There shall reside near the person of the King a Minister for the affairs of Sicily.

20. The Ministers shall compose the Privy Council, to which it is in the power of the King to add one or more Councillors of State.

21. The aforesaid Ministers shall countersign, either collectively or each for the affairs of his own department, all the acts of the Executive authority.

22. The Ministers shall be responsible.

23. The King shall not be able to grant pardon to condemned Ministers, except on the explicit request of one of the Legislative Chambers.

24. The administration of justice and all the other departments of Government shall be regulated by the organic laws now in force, it being reserved however to the Parliament, with the King's consent, to prescribe such modifications as shall be deemed necessary for harmonizing them with the present Statute, or ameliorating them.

25. Until such modifications be made, the laws, decrees, and sovereign acts at present in force shall be fully observed both in respect to territorial divisions, judicial powers, the order of official subordination, and the privileges attached thereto, in all and singular parts of the enactments touching the same.

26. The judicial order shall be independent, the judges immovable after three years' laudable exercise of their functions, counting from the date of their definitive appointment.

27. The agents of Government in the courts of law and tribunals are essentially removable at pleasure.

28. The judges appointed for life may however be translated.

The above in conformity with the organic law of 7th June, 1819.

29. All promiscuity of public offices between Naples and Sicily having ceased, the Ministers, the public functionaries, and all those employed shall be Sicilians; and all the benefices and ecclesiastical dignities which hereafter shall be bestowed shall be conferred upon Sicilians alone.

30. The budget shall be entirely separate, and the expenses common to the Two Sicilies shall be divided between the two portions of the kingdom according to the numerical proportion of their population, or they shall be fixed at 3,000,000 of ducats annually.

31. The extraordinary disbursements charged to the Treasury of Naples, which have been caused by the events of the years 1848 and 1849, estimated much below their real amount, are put down at 500,000 oz.

If this sum be added to that which is now owing to the Treasury of Naples by that of Sicily, it would collectively form a debt which if consolidated by means of the issue of stock to that amount, with the establishment of a corresponding sinking fund, would afford the capital necessary for paying off such debt due to the Neapolitan Treasury.

The debts contracted by Sicily previous to the 12th of January, 1848, and those formed subsequently, shall be charged to the Treasury of Sicily itself.

32. The Sicilians shall participate in proportion to their population in diplomatic appointments. The other public offices chargeable to the common fund shall be conferred upon Sicilians and Neapolitans promiscuously.

Of the Parliament.

33. The Parliament of Sicily shall be composed of two Chambers, one named the Peers and the other the Commons.

34. The Parliament shall sit for four years from the day of its convocation. At the end of four years it must be dissolved.

35. After dissolution or prorogation Parliament must be convoked within a year.

36. The two Chambers shall be convoked at the same time, and shall begin and finish their session at the same time.

37. The Parliament shall exercise the legislative power collectively with the

King. It shall have the right to impose new taxes of every kind and to alter those already established.

The direct taxes shall be voted annually by the Legislative Chambers. The indirect taxes may be imposed for an indefinite number of years.

38. No proposition of the Parliament, even those referring to taxes and supplies, shall have the force of a law, unless ratified by the approbation of the King.

39. The formula "Placet" shall express the Royal sanction; that of "Veto" rejection.

40. The propositions shall not be submitted to the sanction of the King until they shall have been passed by both Chambers.

41. A proposition rejected by one of the two Chambers cannot be proposed again until the session of the following year.

42. Each Chamber shall have the power of deciding without appeal upon the eligibility of its members.

43. The discussions of the Chambers shall be public, excepting those which may be carried on in secret committee.

44. No Member of either Chamber shall be molested, prosecuted, or punished for anything said, done, discussed, or deliberated upon in the Chamber to which he belongs, conformably to the Constitution and without violation of the Statute; but the Chamber itself shall have the right to take cognizance of excesses which the Members may commit during its sitting, and to punish the authors by a vote of censure or by prohibiting their attendance if the case be of a grave nature.

Of the Chamber of Peers.

45. The Peers shall be selected for life by the King; their number shall be unlimited.

46. No one can be elected a Peer unless he has attained the age of forty years.

47. The Chamber of Peers in pursuance of a Royal ordinance shall constitute itself into a High Court of Justice to take cognizance of crimes of high treason, of attempts at a violation of the Statute which may be imputed to Members of the Legislative Chambers. The King shall appoint the magistrate who is to prosecute on the part of the Crown.

48. Any meeting of the Chambers of Peers when the Chamber of Commons is not sitting, is unlawful and entirely null, except in the cases contemplated in the preceding Article.

Of the Chamber of Commons.

49. The Chamber of Commons shall be composed of Deputies from the twenty-four districts; of Deputies elected by the three Universities of Sicily, Palermo, Messina and Catania; and of Deputies elected by the communes, according to the number fixed by the Constitution of 1812.

50. Those communes which from an increase of population may have acquired the right to elect a representative, and communes which have been established since 1812, and have the number of inhabitants prescribed by the above-mentioned Constitution, may address their demand to the Chamber of Commons, who shall examine into the justice of the claim in a legal manner.

51. When the two Chambers have passed a measure, and it has obtained the sanction of the King, the Minister of the Interior shall give the orders for its being put into execution.

52. The mode of electing the Deputies shall be the same as was established by the Constitution of 1812, except that as those public offices through which the elections were carried on are now abolished and suppressed, the King reserves to himself the power of appointing those public functionaries who are to act in their stead.

Of the Electors.

53. The representatives of a district in the Chamber of Commons shall be elected by all those who possess in that district a clear life income of 18 ounces a-year, whether it be derived from freehold or leasehold property, or from any

other source, from unsaleable funded property, dues (*tande*), or any similar property.

The representatives for the city of Palermo shall be elected by all those who may possess in the city itself, or the territory belonging to it, a clear life income of at least 50 ounces a-year, whether such income be derived from freehold or leasehold property, or from any other source, from unsaleable funded property, dues (*tande*), or any similar property.

The representatives of every other city or district returning members (*terra parlamentaria*) shall be elected by all those who possess in such city or district a clear life income of at least 18 ounces a-year, whether such income proceed from freehold or leasehold, or any other source, from unsaleable funded property, dues (*tande*), or any similar property.

54. The professors of the three Universities of Palermo, Messina, and Catania, are alone exempted from the obligation of proving the possession of the above-mentioned amount of property to enable them to elect representatives for the said universities.

55. Those alone are qualified to represent a district who are possessed in Sicily of a clear life income of 300 ounces a-year, whether such income proceed from freehold or leasehold property, or from any other source, from unsaleable funded property, dues (*tande*), or any similar property.

Those alone can represent the city of Palermo who may be possessed in Sicily of the above-mentioned species of property, amounting to 500 ounces a-year.

Those alone are qualified to represent a city or district who are possessed in Sicily of the above-mentioned species of property, amounting to 500 ounces a-year.

In the case of professors being elected to represent the universities, they alone shall be exempted from the obligation of proving the possession of that amount of property which is imposed upon all others.

56. Public functionaries cannot be elected representatives of districts or communes comprised within the limits of their jurisdiction.

These concessions are to be considered as if they had never been granted or promised, or made, should Sicily not submit itself immediately to the authority of its legitimate Sovereign; for if the Royal army should be obliged to use military measures for the re-occupation of that part of the Royal dominions, Sicily would expose itself to all the calamities of war, and to the loss of all the advantages which the present concessions will secure to her.

(Signed) FERDINAND.

Inclosure 4 in No. 339.

List of Exceptions to the Proposed Sicilian Amnesty.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Ruggiero Settino | 24. Andrea Mangiadua |
| 2. Marchese Spedalotto | 25. Luigi Gallo |
| 3. Principe di Scordia | 26. Villa Franca (quello di fratelli andato per corriere presso Carlo Alberto) |
| 4. Barone Riso | 27. Principe di S. Giuseppe |
| 5. Duchino della Verdura | 28. Antonino Miloro |
| 6 & 7. Due Fratelli Ondes (Giovanni ed Andrea) | 29. Antonino Jzobel |
| 8. Giuseppe la Masa | 30. Carlo Caruappa |
| 9. Marchese Milo | 31. Giovanni Giglio |
| 10. Conte Aceto | 32. Carlo Pedone |
| 11. Sacerdote Lagana | 33. Giovanni Pedone |
| 12. Paquale Calvi (Avvocato) | 34. Stefano Scidita |
| 13. Angelo Marocco (Avvocato) | 35. Ferdinando Brandaleone |
| 14. La Farina (Messinese) | 36. Emanuele Sessa |
| 15. Mariano Stabili | 37. Filippo Napoli |
| 16. Vito Beltrani | 38. Filippo Cordova |
| 17. Gactano Dajda | 39. Intendonato (di Messina) |
| 18. Francesco di Giovanni | 40. Piraino (di Milazzo) |
| 19. Michel Angelo Caminireci | 41. Aruagio (di Pachino) |
| 20. Marchese di Torrecarsa | 42 & 43. I due Caruazza (di Catania) |
| 21. Sacerdote Ugolena | 44. Salvatore Chiodemi |
| 22. Pasquali Miloro | |
| 23. Marchese Santonofico | |

No. 390.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, March 19, 1849.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter dated at Palermo, March 8, and of its inclosures, reporting the progress made in the negotiations with the authorities at Palermo, and the manner in which the propositions from His Sicilian Majesty, conveyed to them by the English and French Admirals, have been received.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 390.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," off Palermo, March 8, 1849.

CONCLUDING that the Lords of the Admiralty will have received my letter of the 4th instant, I beg you will inform their Lordships that Her Majesty's ships named in the margin* sailed from Naples at 6 p.m. on that day, and arrived in the roadstead at 10 a.m. of the 6th instant, Vice-Admiral Baudin in the "Friedland" (120 guns), accompanied by the steam-frigate "Vauban," having anchored, about an hour before us.

After an exchange of salutes the French Admiral and myself landed to call on the President and Prince Scordia, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sicilian Government, to arrange the delivery of the communication which we respectively conveyed from the Ministers of Great Britain and France at Naples, also of the proclamation from the King of the Sicilies for adjusting the differences with the Sicilians.

The Prince Scordia having expressed a desire that these papers might be given to him in the presence of the President and all the members of the Government, an arrangement was made for our reception on the following day at 4 p.m. when the several documents of which copies are inclosed were delivered by myself to the Foreign Minister, Admiral Baudin at the same time handing to him documents with which he was charged of a similar tendency.

The members of the Government generally manifested considerable uneasiness at their embarrassing position and explained to us the necessity there would be for their submitting our communications to their Parliament before any further observations could be officially made.

We hope this will be done to-morrow evening when the Chambers meet.

They all express apprehension of the unfavourable sensation, if not violence, which will be produced on the part of the populace by the promulgation of any proposition for acknowledging the sovereignty of King Ferdinand.

We have had visits from the President and several of the leading authorities and have endeavoured by every argument we could use to impress upon them the prudence of accepting the proffered terms.

They appear to have become gradually more composed but evidently desire delay, and amongst other points suggest that they should be allowed time to communicate with the different districts and towns of the island, or to assemble a new Parliament to consider a subject so important, before any definite answer can be given.

These observations were however made in an unofficial shape, but the prevailing sentiments of the leading parties may be collected from them, and the official reply of the Government shall be forwarded to their Lordships by the first opportunity after it is received.

In the event of the terms being rejected, I shall of course apprise the Sicilian Government in writing of the alternative that awaits them. I have already done so verbally to the President.

* *Hibernia, Queen, Powerful, Terrible.*

Admiral Baudin and myself most cordially unite in every measure that we have hitherto had under consideration, and I shall be glad to find that the course I have adopted is approved by their Lordships.

This despatch will be forwarded by a French merchant steam-vessel which proceeds this evening to Marseilles *via* Leghorn and Genoa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 390.

The Hon. W. Temple to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker.

(Extract.)

Naples, March 4, 1849.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing to you a copy and translation of the note which was addressed to me by the Prince Satriano on the 28th of February for the purpose of stating precisely the terms of the concessions which His Sicilian Majesty, in the hopes of obtaining a pacific solution of the Sicilian Question, is disposed to grant to the Sicilians upon the condition that they shall promptly replace themselves under his authority.

I transmit to you a large number of copies of the proclamation by which the King makes known these concessions to the Sicilians, leaving it to your discretion to make such use of them as you may deem most advisable, in order that the Sicilians may be fully informed of the terms which have been offered to them by the King.

I need not enter into details upon this subject as you are acquainted with all the deliberations which preceded this communication of Prince Satriano. It is to be hoped that the Sicilians will be sensible of all the advantages which they will derive from the conditions that are now offered to them, and which appear to be of such a nature as to satisfy their real and legitimate interests.

There is no one to whom the task of bringing this difficult question to a satisfactory termination could be more advantageously confided than yourself. The great services which you have already rendered to the cause of humanity in Sicily and the high professional character which you enjoy, give every reason to expect that you will be listened to with favour and attention by the Sicilians. His Sicilian Majesty has expressed the desire that you should undertake in concert with Admiral Baudin to bring about a pacific arrangement, which, while it re-establishes the union of the kingdom, will secure to the Sicilians all the advantages which they can derive from free institutions and an independent Administration, preserving them at the same time from a war which would endanger their prosperity and freedom.

I trust therefore that you will be disposed to accede to the wishes of the King, and that you will undertake, in conjunction with Admiral Baudin, to convey to the Sicilians the conditions of the arrangement which is offered to them. These conditions are the most favourable which the united efforts of Great Britain and France have been able to obtain. M. de Rayneval and myself having employed our utmost exertions in support of the interests of Sicily, we do not think it possible for us to obtain any additional modifications, and these conditions therefore may be considered to be an *ultimatum*.

Prince Satriano in his note speaks of certain exceptions to be made to the amnesty. It is unnecessary however for me to say to you that these exceptions are to be done away with, and are to be considered as not having been made, since you have received an assurance to that effect from the King himself.

As you are so well acquainted with all the points under consideration I do not think it necessary to add more than to express the perfect reliance which all parties interested in this question place in the judgment and experience of yourself and Admiral Baudin, and the conviction that the good understanding which has so constantly and happily existed between you will essentially tend to facilitate the successful result of your undertaking.

Inclosure 3 in No. 390.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Prince Scordia.

Excellency,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 7, 1849.

HER Majesty's Minister at Naples, in conjunction with the Minister of France, having assiduously exerted his best offices in mediating with His Majesty King Ferdinand II for the adjustment of the unfortunate differences with Sicily, on the most favourable terms that could be obtained for securing peace and tranquillity, a note was addressed by the Prince Satriano to the mediating Ministers on the 28th February, 1849, intimating the King's ultimatum, which left them no expectation of further concessions beneficial to Sicily. His Majesty at the same time graciously expressed his desire, with the full concurrence of the mediating Ministers, that Vice-Admiral Baudin and the Undersigned would convey his Royal Proclamation and amicable offers to Palermo.

The Undersigned, reciprocating the sentiments of Vice-Admiral Baudin, has not hesitated to undertake this mission, with the earnest hope that the Sicilians may see, in the manifold advantages that are now benignly offered to them by His Majesty, just cause for terminating finally the late unhappy contentions by a cordial reconciliation. If this much desired result is effected, the Undersigned, sympathizing deeply in the welfare of Sicily, will have every reason to consider his present visit to Palermo as one of the most gratifying events of his life.

He has the honor to inclose for the information of the Sicilian Government a printed copy of the Royal Proclamation, as also of the Prince Satriano's note to his Excellency Mr. Temple, and of the communication which Her Majesty's Minister has addressed on this subject to the Undersigned, who avails himself, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 391.

Mr. Addington to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 20, 1849.

I HAVE laid before Viscount Palmerston your letter of the 16th instant inclosing copies of a despatch and its inclosures received from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, dated the 4th instant, and reporting the result of the communications which had passed between the Representatives of England and France at the Court of Naples, and the Admirals of the two Powers on the one hand, and the King of Naples and his Government on the other, respecting the terms to be offered to the Sicilians.

I am to request that you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Viscount Palmerston is of opinion that Sir William Parker's conduct, as reported in this despatch, should be fully approved, and especially as regards his having, in conjunction with Admiral Baudin, prevailed on the King of Naples to withdraw the exceptions which the Neapolitan Government in the first instance proposed to make to the amnesty which is to be accorded to the Sicilians.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. U. ADDINGTON.

No. 392.

Mr. Addington to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 23, 1849.

I HAVE laid before Viscount Palmerston your letter of the 19th instant inclosing a copy of a despatch from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker dated the 8th of March, reporting the arrival of himself and Admiral Baudin at Palermo, and containing an account of what had passed in their first interview with the Sicilian authorities on the subject of the proposals of the King of Naples, of which they were the bearers.

I am to request that you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Viscount Palmerston is of opinion that Sir William Parker's proceedings as reported in that despatch should be approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. U. ADDINGTON.

No. 393.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 23, 1849.

I HAVE not received any despatches from you of a later date than your despatch of the 23rd of February, in which you inclosed a draft of a note from Prince Satriano, stating the conditions proposed to be offered to the Sicilians which had been submitted to you by Prince Satriano for your previous consideration, and in which you reported that you were about to proceed to Gaeta, in conjunction with your French colleague and the English and French Admirals, in order to have an interview with the King of Naples in the hope of inducing him to modify in some respects the proposed conditions.

I have however received from the Board of Admiralty copies of two despatches from Sir William Parker, dated the 4th and 8th of March, the first reporting the reasons which had induced the two Admirals to seek a second interview with the King of Naples, and the successful result of their endeavours to prevail upon His Majesty to withdraw the exceptions to the amnesty which were at first contemplated; the second reporting the arrival of the two Admirals at Palermo, and containing an account of what had passed in their first interview with the Sicilian authorities on the subject of the proposals of the King of Naples of which they were the bearers.

I have to acquaint you that I have stated to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty my opinion that Sir William Parker's conduct, as reported in his despatches of the 4th and 8th of March, should be fully approved, and especially as regards his having in conjunction with Admiral Baudin prevailed on the King of Naples to withdraw the exceptions which the Neapolitan Government in the first instance proposed to make to the amnesty which is to be accorded to the Sicilians.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 394.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, March 26, 1849.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, dated the 15th March, inclosing copies of correspondence with the authorities at Palermo, respecting the adjustment of their differences with the King of the Two Sicilies.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure in No. 394.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 15, 1849.

THE departure of a French steam-vessel for Marseilles gives me the opportunity of transmitting to the Lords of the Admiralty the correspondence* which has passed with the Sicilian Minister for Foreign Affairs since my letter of the 8th instant.

I am sorry to observe that it is of an unfavourable nature, and the whole conduct of the Sicilian Government has too evidently evinced a disposition to gain time by any expedient; for instead of submitting the proposals of which Admiral Baudin and myself were the bearers, to the Parliament, as the Minister led us to expect, they have been altogether withheld; and on the 9th instant a levy was voted of six men in every thousand between the ages of eighteen and thirty, to be immediately armed in the defence of the country; and 2000 troops were ordered to march to Catania, supposed to garrison that city.

These may be very justifiable measures, considering that the Neapolitan Government is reinforcing the army under Prince Satriano at Messina, but they warrant a suspicion that the Sicilian Government is disinclined to accede to the King's offer of accommodation. Their Lordships will see that I have, in my note to Prince Butera of the 13th instant, requested an early and explicit answer.

I have also called to the attention of the Government the certain alternative of a renewal of hostilities, which I suppressed in my first communication, from the apprehension that it might be considered as a menace which would operate unfavourably.

King Ferdinand's proclamation has unquestionably been very ill received by all classes at Palermo; even the most moderate find in it almost insurmountable objections, and no one of the Sicilians has ventured to recommend acceptance of the terms, although they are gradually admitting the hopelessness of any resistance they can offer.

Their most bitter feelings are excited by the clause in the third paragraph of the preamble of the Royal proclamation, which nullifies all the acts that have taken place in Sicily since the 12th of January, 1849. They regard it as applying to civil as well as to the political transactions, and particularly object to the 24th and 25th Articles, which restore the odious police and intendencies or *Préfétures*.

A partial change of Ministers was determined on yesterday, according to the inclosed list†.

A few of the proclamations were sent to Messina, Catania, and Syracuse by Acting Lieutenant Burnaby, who proceeded in a French steamer on the 13th instant to those places, on his way to join the "*Spartan*;" and I inclose a copy of my letter to the Consul at Messina and the Vice-Consuls at Catania and Syracuse on the subject.

As no disposition has been manifested on the part of the Government to make the Sicilians acquainted with the actual propositions of which Admiral Baudin and myself have been the bearers, and very erroneous opinions are entertained of the statements made by Mr. Temple and M. de Rayneval on the subject, Admiral Baudin and myself have deemed it expedient to order 1000 copies of the documents we respectively presented to Prince Scordia on the 7th instant to be printed, that they may accompany the King's proclamation which we are now about to put in circulation throughout the island, and it is our intention to send a steam-vessel to the different Consulates for the purpose of distributing them as generally as possible; but no attempt will of course be made to placard them.

Since writing the foregoing, the Sicilian Ministers for Foreign Affairs and War, accompanied by their secretary, have visited me for the purpose of stating that the Sicilian Government does not in anywise accept or reject the terms that have been proposed to them, but that it is impossible for them to

* See Inclosures 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, in No. 401.

† See Inclosure 10 in No. 401.

‡ See Inclosure 7 in No. 401.

lay before the Parliament the Royal Proclamation and the communications received from M. Rayneval, Mr. Temple, and the French and English Admirals, while the first named document remains in its present form.

They have promised me that their sentiments on this subject shall be stated in letters which Prince Butera will address to Admiral Baudin and myself, with the hope that the Ministers of France and England at Naples may be disposed to make such a representation to the King as may induce His Majesty so to modify the document in form, that the Sicilian Government may be enabled to receive and lay it before the Parliament.

It is my intention to dispatch the "Oberon" to Naples as soon as possible after their communication is received; but I have distinctly informed them that we cannot, under any circumstances, enforce the armistice, should the Neapolitan troops be disposed to advance from Messina, which they may possibly decide on in consequence of the terms offered not being promptly accepted by the Sicilians, and the apparent preparations of the latter for resistance.

Hoping that the measures I have adopted will meet the approval of their Lordships,

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 395.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir, *Admiralty, March 26, 1849.*

I AM commaoed by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, dated the 15th instant, and of its inclosure, reporting the steps he has taken (in conjunction with the French Vice-Admiral Baudin) to circulate amongst the Sicilians the Proclamation of the King of the Two Sicilies, and the communications made by the Vice-Admirals to the authorities at Palermo.

— I also inclose the printed copies of the documents in question, and am, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 395.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *"Hibernia," Palermo, March 15, 1849, 2 P.M.*

ADMIRAL BAUDIN has just intimated to me his intention of dispatching this afternoon the "Ariel," a small French steam-vessel, with the printed copies of the Royal Proclamation and the communications which his Excellency and myself made to the Sicilian Government on our arrival here.

I inclose for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the copy* of a circular letter which I have written to the British Consuls and Vice-Consuls at the various points named in the margin†, on the subject of the distribution of the documents above referred to, copies of which I now inclose; and I hope this mode of giving publicity to the object of our mission will be found in accordance with Mr. Temple's intentions, and meet the approval of their Lordships.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

* See Inclosure 9 in No. 401.

† Consulate of Palermo, Messina. Vice-Consulates: Trapani, Marsala, Mazara, Scincori, Girgenti, Alcatraz, Terra Nova, Scicli, Syracuse, Catania.

List of Documents circulated in Sicily by Vice-Admirals Sir W. Parker and Baudin.

1. Royal Proclamation, February 28, 1849. See Inclosure 3 in No. 60.
2. Prince Satriano to the Hon. W. Temple, February 28, 1849. See Inclosure 1 in No. 72.
3. M. de Rayneval to Vice-Admiral Baudin, March 3, 1849. See Inclosure 3 in No. 72.
4. Vice-Admiral Baudin to Prince Butera, March 7, 1849. (Of the same tenor as No. 7.)
5. The Hon. W. Temple to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, March 4, 1849. See Inclosure 2 in No. 62.
6. Prince Satriano to the Hon. W. Temple, February 28, 1849. See Inclosure 1 in No. 72.
7. Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Prince Butera, March 7, 1849. See Inclosure 3 in No. 62.
8. Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Prince Butera (Extract), March 10, 1849. See Inclosure 3 in No. 74.

No. 396.

Mr. Addington to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 31, 1849.

I HAVE laid before Viscount Palmerston your letters of the 26th instant inclosing copies of two despatches from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker of the 15th instant, reporting his further proceedings at Palermo with reference to the conditions offered by the King of Naples to the Sicilians, of which he and Admiral Baudin were the bearers; and I am to request that you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Lord Palmerston is of opinion that the proceedings of Sir William Parker, as reported in these despatches, should be approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. U. ADDINGTON.

No. 397.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 6, 1849.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing to your Lordship copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Goodwin, of the 19th and 23rd ultimo, giving an account of the change of Ministry which has taken place in Sicily, in consequence of which Prince Scordia, who has assumed the title of Prince Butera, replaces the Marchese Torrensars as Minister for Foreign Affairs, and has delivered an address to the Chambers, setting forth his views respecting the internal state of Sicily, its army, and finances.

It appears also that the Deputies from Rome and Florence had failed in their endeavours to induce the Sicilians to join the Republican party.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure I in No. 397.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Palermo, February 19, 1849.

THE new Ministry, the formation of which was entrusted to the Prince of Butera, has at length been completed. Butera replaces Torrensars in the Foreign Affairs; De Marco replaces Errante in Worship and Justice; Cerda replaces Amari in the Finances; Catalano replaces Raeli in the Interior and Security; Turrisi replaces D'Ondes Reggio in Public Works and Instruction; and Paulet replaces La Farina in War and Marine. The new Cabinet is superior to the old one in point of wealth. Butera, Cerda, and Turrisi, owners of landed estates

much larger than those of their predecessors, will guarantee the security of property to a great and unexampled extent.

The new Ministers took their seats in Parliament on the 17th instant, on which occasion Butera delivered an able and statesmanlike address.

The Prince set out by stating that office had been forced on his acceptance and that of his colleagues, went on to say that the policy of the Cabinet would be that of the Ministries of the 27th March and 13th August last, and ended by explaining his views on the army, the finances, and the public peace. The first object of endeavour was to place the country in an efficient state of defence; with a view to which end the Ministry would avail itself of the counsels and suggestions of the native and foreign generals who had come to its assistance. Officers of all ranks would readily allow that without instruction and discipline no efficient army could be formed. Strict attention to these points was therefore earnestly recommended.

The state of the finances required their attention. It was not to be wondered at if the State was embarrassed. The revenue had suffered from the abolition or reduction of many taxes, and the difficulty met with in collecting the others, while the expenditure had been greatly increased by the extraordinary expenses occasioned by the war. Ministers would endeavour to lay before the Chambers as speedily as possible a clear view of the finances, to which end they would avail themselves of financial ability in and out of Parliament. Internal security would likewise engage attention. Moral courage on the part of the judges and witnesses (a quality hitherto wanting) was highly desirable.

On the 22nd instant Butera will lay before the Chambers a general view of the finances, and will propose that a part of the forced loan on the provinces shall be applied to general purposes, instead of being devoted to the war exclusively.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JNO. GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 397.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Palermo, February 23, 1849.

THE Prince of Butera's financial statement, the substance of which has been already given, was laid before the Commons yesterday.

The ordinary revenues of the State, said the Prince, just covered the expenses of internal government. The extraordinary balanced the paper money, and the proceeds of the forced loan exceeded the wants of the War Department.

Permission was asked for 60,000 oz. to be diverted from the last-mentioned source and applied to the first, and a delay of twenty days was solicited for the framing of the budget for the current year. Both these requests will be granted this day.

Torricelli and L. A. Mazzini, the deputies from Rome and Florence, who are come to solicit the Sicilians to join the Republicans, have failed in their mission, and have thought of returning forthwith. The report that Sir George Hamilton has mediated between the Grand Duke and the Provisional Government, with a view to the restoration of the former, has been received by the Peers and Deputies with a lively pleasure.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 398.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 6, 1849.

AFTER the notes had been exchanged, copies of which were transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch of the 22nd ultimo, Prince Satriano expressed his readiness to enter into negotiations for the purpose of endeavouring to come

to an arrangement upon the terms which the Neapolitan Government would be willing to offer to the Sicilians, and it was thought that we should more easily come to an understanding by discussing the various points verbally, than by written communications.

I abstained therefore at the time from replying to the note of Prince Satriano of January 29, although it contained several misapprehensions which might have been observed upon and rectified; but I was unwilling to continue a discussion in writing upon points, some of which, such as the conduct of the Neapolitan troops at Messina, were less relevant to the immediate object of the negotiation than to the principle upon which it was undertaken, and of which others would be more readily settled by conferences.

The Russian Minister having declined to interfere in the negotiation, and the Spanish Ambassador having abstained from pressing the claim which he and the Neapolitan Government had put forward for Spain to be associated with Great Britain and France as a mediating Power in the Sicilian Question, all the difficulties which had been raised by Prince Cariati's proposal upon these points, were thus removed.

The question upon which it was most difficult to come to an arrangement was that of the army. The King would not hear of a separate army for Sicily, and Prince Satriano was even more adverse to the proposition than His Majesty. The Neapolitan Government insisted upon all Sicily being occupied by Neapolitan troops, while the Sicilians would naturally desire that they should be excluded from the island.

As a sort of compromise, it was proposed that the Neapolitan troops should garrison the forts, and that the preservation of order in the interior of the island should be confined to the Sicilian corps under the Capitani d'Armi, so that the Neapolitan troops should not be quartered upon, or mix with the Sicilian population, unless they were called upon by the authorities to assist in maintaining order. The forts mentioned were those which are already occupied by the Neapolitans, and those on the eastern coast of Sicily, together with Trapani and the citadel of Palermo, the garrison of which latter place was to consist of Swiss troops and a regiment of cavalry commanded by Sicilian officers.

It was felt however by Sir William Parker and Admiral Baudin, as well as by myself and M. de Rayneval, that the proposal of quartering Neapolitan troops on Palermo would never be accepted or even listened to by the Sicilians; and as Prince Satriano would not consent to withdraw this condition, it was determined that we should apply directly to the King upon the subject, as I stated to your Lordship in my despatch of February 23, and accordingly we proceeded to Gaeta on board Her Majesty's steam-frigate "Terrible," on the 20th ultimo.

His Majesty received us graciously and was pleased to listen to our representations, assuring us that he would confide the town and city of Palermo to the National Guard, reserving however to himself the right of disbanding that body and replacing it by a military garrison, if the National Guard should prove itself unable to secure tranquillity and a due respect for the laws.

A complete amnesty was promised, but Prince Satriano stated that there were a few persons whose conduct and opinions had been such as to render it expedient that they should absent themselves from Palermo for a certain time, until quiet was restored, and the new Government more securely established. A list of those persons was to be given to the Admirals, who were to invite them to go abroad for a short time, or to reside in a garrison town under the observation of the authorities.

Had the list been confined to three or four individuals, and the expediency of desiring them to absent themselves for a time left to the discretion of the Admirals, the proposal would have been less objectionable, but when the list was communicated, a copy of which is herewith inclosed, it was found to contain the names of forty-four persons, including those of the most respectable and influential individuals with whom the Admirals would necessarily be obliged to treat.

The exceptions therefore, if previously made known, would obviously prevent all negotiations taking place; and if they were concealed till after the acceptance of the terms, the Admirals would be exposed to the charge of duplicity and bad faith.

Sir William Parker and Admiral Baudin therefore proceeded again to Gaeta

on the 3rd instant and respectfully but firmly declared to the King that they must decline being the bearers of the proposals of His Majesty to the Sicilians, if the amnesty were to be clogged with those exceptions. His Majesty assured the Admirals that he had not been aware that so many names had been inserted in the list, that he was disposed to accede to their request, and that therefore they might consider the amnesty to be complete and without exceptions.

With regard to the appointment of a Vice-Roy, the King particularly objected to any restriction as to the person by whom he was to be represented. He expressed his intention however of naming always a Sicilian, if possible; and it is understood that Prince Cassaro will probably be appointed Vice-Roy if the negotiations terminate successfully.

The electoral law both with regard to the qualifications of the electors and the elected is the same as that of the Constitution of 1812.

The Peers however are to be named by the King for life, and the peerage is not hereditary, as the laws of entail and primogeniture have been abolished in Sicily.

The conditions offered by the King to the Sicilians are not altogether so favourable as might have been desired, but taking all the circumstances attending the negotiations into consideration, they are as good as we could well have expected to obtain from this Government.

Should they be accepted by the Sicilians and be carried out by both parties with good faith and in a spirit of conciliation, they will I trust lead to an arrangement which may ultimately prove satisfactory both to His Majesty and to his Sicilian subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure in No. 398.

List of Exceptions to the Amnesty.

[See Inclosure 4 in No. 399.]

No. 399.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 7, 1849.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship a copy and translation of the note* which Prince Satriano addressed to me and to M. de Rayneval, the French Minister, on the 28th of February last, in which he states the terms of the concessions which His Sicilian Majesty is willing to grant to the Sicilians on condition of their returning immediately under his authority; and I also transmit copies and a translation of the proclamation† which His Majesty has addressed to the Sicilians making known to them those concessions, and containing fifty-six Articles forming the basis of a Constitution founded upon that of 1812, which the King proposes to establish in Sicily. I also inclose copies of my answer and of that of M. de Rayneval to the note of Prince Satriano, together with copies of the letters which I and M. de Rayneval addressed respectively to Admiral Sir William Parker and Admiral Baudin, requesting them to carry the terms offered by His Sicilian Majesty to Palermo, and expressing our hopes that they might be the means of bringing about a pacific solution of the Sicilian Question.

The Admirals left Naples on the evening of the 4th for Palermo. Sir William Parker sailed in the "Hibernia," accompanied by the "Queen," the "Powerful," which had arrived that morning from Malta, and the "Terrible" steam-frigate. Admiral Baudin sailed in the "Friedland," his flag-ship, accompanied by the "Vauban" steamer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

* See Inclosure 2 in No. 399.

† See Inclosure 3 in No. 399.

Inclosure 1 in No. 399.

The Hon. W. Temple to Prince Satriano.

Prince,

Naples, March 4, 1849.

I HAVE received the note of the 28th February by which, after the various conferences held on the subject, your Excellency states definitively the terms of the concessions which His Sicilian Majesty, in the hopes of a pacific solution of the Sicilian Question, is disposed to grant to the Sicilians, on condition that they promptly return under his authority.

The British and French Admirals are ready to convey these conditions to Palermo, and will use their utmost influence to convince the Sicilians of the great advantages which they may derive from acceding to them, and of the numerous evils which may attend their rejection.

The Admirals will sail for Palermo this evening.

I have communicated to Admiral Sir William Parker, together with your Excellency's note, the Royal Proclamation in which the concessions of His Sicilian Majesty are set forth, at the same time requesting the Admiral to take such steps as he may judge most expedient for making it generally known.

With regard to the list of persons forming exceptions to the amnesty which was communicated to me in your Excellency's note, I need not say that His Majesty, to whose clemency the Admirals were induced to make a direct appeal, was graciously pleased to declare to them in a manner which elicited their warmest gratitude, that they might consider the amnesty to be complete; and His Sicilian Majesty may rely upon the zeal with which Sir William Parker will use his best endeavours to bring to a successful issue the work of pacification with which he is charged.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 399.

M. de Rayneval to Prince Satriano.

Prince,

Naples, 4 Mars, 1849.

J'AI reçu la note qu'à la suite de nos nombreuses entrevues, votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser sous la date du 28 Février, pour poser définitivement les termes des concessions que, dans l'espoir d'une solution pacifique de la question de Sicile, Sa Majesté Sicilienne est disposée à accorder aux Siciliens, sous la condition d'un prompt retour à son autorité.

MM. les Amiraux sont prêts à porter ces conditions à Palerme. Ils emploieront toute leur influence à convaincre les Siciliens des très grands avantages qu'ils en pourraient retirer, et des malheurs sans nombre que leur vaudrait un refus. Ils mettront à la voile ce soir même.

Je viens d'adresser à M. l'Amiral Baudin, avec la note de votre Excellence, la Proclamation Royale qui énumère les concessions du Roi. J'ai invité M. l'Amiral à donner à cet acte la plus grande publicité possible.

Quant à la liste d'exceptions à l'amnistie que m'a adressée votre Excellence, je n'ai pas besoin de lui dire que Sa Majesté, près de laquelle MM. les Amiraux ont tenté une démarche directe, leur a déclaré avec une générosité qui les a vivement touchés, qu'ils pouvaient considérer l'amnistie comme complète.

Le Roi peut compter sur l'entier dévouement que M. l'Amiral Baudin apportera à la tâche de pacification qui lui est confiée.

En réitérant à votre Excellence l'expression des vœux ardens que je forme pour l'heureuse réussite de notre commune entreprise, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) A. DE RAYNEVAL.

(Translation.)

Prince,

Naples, March 4, 1849.

I HAVE received the note which, in consequence of our repeated interviews, your Excellency did me the honour of addressing to me on the 28th of February, for the purpose of declaring definitively the terms of the concessions which in the hope of a peaceful settlement of the Sicilian Question, His Sicilian Majesty is disposed to grant to the Sicilians, on condition of their speedy submission to his authority.

The Admirals are ready to convey these conditions to Palermo. They will employ all their influence to convince the Sicilians of the very great advantages which they may derive from them and of the innumerable misfortunes which their rejection of them would entail upon them. They will sail this evening.

I have just sent to Admiral Baudin, together with your Excellency's note, the Royal Proclamation which contains the King's concessions. I have requested the Admiral to give to that document the greatest possible publicity.

With regard to the list of exceptions to the amnesty which your Excellency sent me, I need not tell you that His Majesty, with whom the Admirals sought a direct communication, declared with a generosity which greatly gratified them, that they might consider the amnesty to be complete.

The King may rely on the complete devotion which Admiral Baudin will employ in the work of pacification which has been entrusted to him.

While I repeat to your Excellency the expression of my anxious desire for the success of our mutual undertaking,

I take, &c.

(Signed) A. DE RAYNEVAL.

 Inclosure 3 in No. 399.
M. de Rayneval to Vice-Admiral Baudin.

M. l'Amiral,

Naples, le 3 Mars, 1849.

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-jointe copie de la note que m'a adressée sous la date du 23 Février, le Prince de Satriano, pour poser définitivement les termes des concessions que Sa Majesté Sicilienne, dans l'espoir d'une solution pacifique de la question de Sicile, est disposée à accorder aux Siciliens, sous la condition d'un prompt retour à son autorité. Je joins à cet envoi un grand nombre d'exemplaires de la proclamation qui énumère toutes les concessions du Roi.

Je n'entrerai à ce sujet dans aucun détail; vous n'êtes resté étranger à aucune des délibérations qui ont précédé la communication du Prince de Satriano. J'ai l'espoir que les Siciliens comprendront tous les avantages qu'ils peuvent retirer des conditions qui leur sont offertes, et qui sont de nature à satisfaire leurs légitimes et véritables intérêts.

Nul, mieux que vous, M. l'Amiral, ne saurait mener à bonne fin cette difficile affaire. Le service signalé que vous avez rendu à la cause Sicilienne, votre longue expérience, l'éclat de votre carrière, vous donnent de grandes chances d'être écouté. Sa Majesté Sicilienne a exprimé le vœu que vous voulussiez bien entreprendre, de concert avec M. l'Amiral Parker, l'œuvre de pacification, qui, en rétablissant l'unité du royaume, assurerait à la Sicile tous les avantages qu'elle peut retirer d'institutions libres, d'une administration indépendante, et lui éviterait tous les maux d'une guerre qui compromettrait à la fois son bonheur et sa liberté.

Je viens vous inviter, Monsieur l'Amiral, à déférer au vœu du Roi, et à porter aux Siciliens, conjointement avec M. l'Amiral Parker, les conditions d'arrangement qui leur sont offertes: ces conditions sont tout ce que les efforts réunis de la France et de l'Angleterre ont pu obtenir de plus favorable. Nous nous sommes efforcés de faire prévaloir autant qu'il a pu être en nous les intérêts de la Sicile: nous ne regardons pas comme possible d'obtenir de nouvelles modifications. Nous considérons donc ces conditions comme un ulti-

matum. En cas d'acceptation il serait possible que votre présence à Palerme fût un grand secours à la nouvelle Administration ; en cas de refus, l'action des deux Puissances étant terminée, et leur rôle honorablement rempli, il ne resterait qu'à dénoncer aux Siciliens l'armistice, de manière à ce que les dix jours de délai qu'ils ont sollicités avant la reprise des hostilités leur soient assurés. Je sais que telles sont vos intentions sur ces différens points, et je n'ai rien à ajouter, si ce n'est que tous ceux qui sont intéressés dans la question placent, comme moi, la confiance la plus absolue en vos lumières, en votre expérience, et en celles de M. l'Amiral Parker.

Vous jugerez des meilleurs moyens à employer pour donner à la proclamation du Roi la plus grande publicité possible.

M. le Prince de Satriano parlait dans sa note de quelques exceptions à l'amnistie. Je n'ai pas besoin de vous dire, puisque vous avez recueilli vous-même la parole du Roi, que ces exceptions sont considérées maintenant comme non-avenues.

Il me paraît fort à désirer que vous puissiez faire voile le plus tôt possible. Dans la situation actuelle de l'Italie tout retard pourrait être fatal. Les indiscretions qui ne manqueraient pas d'avoir lieu au sujet des bases convenues pourraient mal préparer le terrain déjà bien difficile sur lequel vous allez agir.

Il est impossible de préciser d'avance de quelle manière, en cas de succès, devra s'installer le nouveau Gouvernement. Vos indications, le cas échéant, seront précieuses pour diriger l'action du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Sicilienne.

Il me paraît superflu de vous faire remarquer combien il importe que l'entente parfaite qui a si constamment et si heureusement régné entre vous et M. l'Amiral Parker, continue à Palerme ; j'ai la conviction qu'il en sera ainsi.

Je forme les vœux les plus ardens, Monsieur l'Amiral, pour le succès de l'entreprise qui vous est confiée, et je saisis, &c.

(Signé)

A. DE RAYNEVAL.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Naples, March 3, 1849.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the note which the Prince de Satriano addressed to me on the 28th of February, in which he definitively lays down the terms of the concessions which His Sicilian Majesty in the hope of a peaceful settlement of the Sicilian Question is willing to grant to the Sicilians, provided they return forthwith to their allegiance. Together with that note I inclose several copies of the Proclamation which contains all the King's concessions.

I will not enter into details upon this subject ; none of the deliberations which preceded the Prince de Satriano's communication are unknown to you. I trust the Sicilians will understand all the advantages which they may derive from the conditions which are offered to them, and which are calculated to promote their real and legitimate interests.

No one is better qualified than yourself, M. l'Amiral, to bring this difficult affair to a successful termination. The signal service which you have rendered to the Sicilian cause, your long experience, your glorious career, afford you the great chance of a favourable hearing. His Sicilian Majesty has expressed a desire that you would be good enough to undertake, in conjunction with Admiral Parker, the work of pacification, which, while it would re-establish the unity of the kingdom, would secure to Sicily all the advantages which she can derive from free institutions and an independent administration, and would avert all the evils of a war which would jeopardize both her prosperity and her freedom.

I have to request you, Sir, to yield to the King's wishes and to convey to the Sicilians, in conjunction with Admiral Parker, the terms of arrangement which are offered to them ; these conditions are the most favourable which the united efforts of France and England could obtain. We did all in our power to further the advancement of the interests of Sicily ; we do not consider it possible to obtain any fresh modifications. We therefore consider these conditions as an ultimatum. In the event of their acceptance your presence may possibly be of great utility to the new Administration ; in the event of their refusal, the mediation of the two Powers being thus brought to an end, and their duty honourably performed, it would only remain for you to announce to

the Sicilians the termination of the armistice, so as to ensure them the ten days' notice which they requested might be afforded to them before the resumption of hostilities. I know that such are your intentions on these various points, and I have only to add that all who are interested in this matter feel equally with myself the most perfect confidence in your wisdom and experience, as well as in those of Admiral Parker.

You will determine on the best mode of giving the greatest possible publicity to the King's Proclamation.

Prince Satriano spoke in his note of some exceptions to the amnesty. I need not tell you, as you have yourself received the King's word, that these exceptions are now considered null and void.

It appears to me very desirable that you should sail as soon as possible. In the present state of Italy any delay may prove fatal. The indiscretions which will not fail to be committed in respect to the bases agreed upon, might but ill prepare the way for the already sufficiently arduous duties which you are about to perform.

It is impossible to state exactly beforehand in what manner, in the event of success, the new Government will have to be installed. Your observations in such case will be of great use in guiding the operations of His Sicilian Majesty's Government.

It appears superfluous to point out to you how very important it is that the cordial good understanding which has so uninterruptedly and so happily existed between you and Admiral Parker should continue still to exist at Palermo; I am convinced that such will be the case.

I most earnestly trust, Sir, that you may succeed in the undertaking which is confided to you, and I take, &c.

(Signed) A. DE RAYNEVAL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 399.

The Hon. W. Temple to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 390.]

No. 400.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 16, 1849.

I HAVE been in daily expectation of hearing from Palermo, but I have received no direct communication yet from Sir William Parker. A letter however has been received by the way of Messina, from Admiral Baudin, by which it appears that up to the 13th instant, when he wrote, no answer had been received from the Sicilian authorities to the proposals brought to them by the Admirals, and those proposals had not up to that time been laid before the Chambers.

Admirals Parker and Baudin arrived at Palermo on the 6th instant and immediately called upon Prince Butera, who informed them that he could not listen to any proposals unless the President and the other Ministers were also present. On the following day the Admirals landed and had an interview with the President and the other Ministers, to whom they communicated in writing the object of their mission, leaving with them copies of the note which Prince Satriano addressed to M. de Rayneval and myself, the proclamation of the King, and the letters which the two Admirals had received from their respective Ministers at Naples.

The Sicilian Ministers having expressed their desire of taking into their consideration the terms proposed, before they gave any answer to the Admirals, the interview terminated, but up to the 13th instant no answer had been given.

The great object of the Sicilians appears to be to gain time, and to postpone as long as possible coming to any decision. This may arise from the weakness of the Government, and their dread lest the armed population should accuse

them of treachery, were they to appear willing to negotiate an arrangement with the King of Naples.

Admiral Baudin complains of the subterfuges to which Prince Butera has had recourse for the purpose of delay. In one note he asks what is meant by the mediation, and seems altogether to have forgotten what took place at the time when the armistice was established. In a second note he says that as the King makes it a condition that all the acts of the Sicilian Government since January 1848 shall be considered as null, there is no authority in Sicily with whom the King or the Admirals can treat.

The Government proposed at one time to dissolve the Chambers and to call together a new Parliament within twenty days, in order that the terms offered by the King might be laid before it, and its decisions might be looked upon as that of the Sicilian people. This idea however has been given up, but in the meantime a decree has been published on the 10th instant calling upon the male population of Sicily between the ages of eighteen and thirty to take up arms, and other preparations for the renewal of hostilities have been made.

It is believed that many among the wealthy class, and a great number of the peasants would be happy to see a termination of the war, but there is a strong feeling among the armed population against entering into any arrangement with the King; and foreign emissaries have been actively employed in keeping alive these hostile feelings of the Sicilians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

No. 401.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 21, 1849.

THE "Ardent" arrived at Naples from Palermo on the morning of the 19th instant bringing despatches from Sir William Parker, by which it appears that Prince Butera had refused to present the conditions offered by the King to the Sicilians, on the plea that it was impossible for the Parliament whose acts the King declared in his proclamation were to be considered as void, to receive a direct communication from the King, who was no longer recognised by it as their Sovereign. Admirals Parker and Baudin therefore referred the matter to myself and M. de Rayneval, in order that this difficulty of form might be got over.

We have decided as the time presses to go over to Palermo ourselves; and M. de Rayneval and myself proposed starting for Palermo in Her Majesty's steamer "Bulldog" to join the Admirals there.

I inclose to your Lordship two despatches from Admiral Parker with their inclosures, which give details of the communications which had taken place between the Admirals and Prince Butera; and they also describe the popular feeling which has manifested itself upon the King's proclamation being made known in Sicily.

M. de Rayneval and myself hope that by suppressing the preamble and offering the terms as coming from ourselves and not from the King, this difficulty of form may be got over, and that it will be possible to ascertain how far there is any chance of bringing the two parties to an understanding, though I fear both are adverse to make any mutual concessions.

The Admirals have announced to the Sicilians that the ten days' notice promised to be given to them before the expiration of the armistice, was to be considered as having commenced on the 19th instant, and would expire on the 29th.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 401.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 15, 1849.

YOUR Excellency is aware that within two hours after I had the honour of receiving your letter of the 4th instant, Her Majesty's squadron was under sail for Palermo, where we arrived on the morning of the 6th in company with Vice-Admiral Baudin.

As soon as salutes were exchanged we proceeded together to call on the President and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sicilian Government, but finding the latter unwilling to receive our communication alone, MS. copies of the documents which I now forward in print were delivered to his Excellency by appointment on the following day in the presence of the President and members of the Government, who gave us to understand that as soon as they had been perused and considered, they would as a necessary measure be laid before the Parliament, which alone could decide on their acceptance or rejection.

By an interchange of visits we soon learnt that the Ministers were indisposed to bring our communications before the Parliament.

They dwelt much upon their embarrassing position.

Every occurrence has induced the impression that the Ministers were actuated by a predominating desire to gain time; and eight days have elapsed without our being able to obtain any written document that can lead us to suppose there is a disposition to accept the terms of which we have been the bearers.

We deemed it expedient therefore at the expiration of four days to circulate a small number of the Proclamations among the British and French merchants, and to afford them the opportunity of reading at the respective Consulates copies of your Excellency's, Prince Satriano's and our own letters, which had been delivered to the Government on the 7th instant.

The Parliament in the meantime voted a levy of six men in every thousand between the ages of eighteen and thirty, to be immediately armed for the defence of the country, and 2000 men were ordered to march to Catania.

These measures are defended by the Sicilians on the principle that Prince Satriano is receiving strong reinforcements at Messina, but they strengthen the suspicion that they are more inclined to resist than accede to the offers made to them.

The objection to place the papers before the Parliament is grounded on the clause in the third paragraph of the preamble of the Royal Proclamation, which nullifies all the acts that have taken place in Sicily since the 12th of January, 1848, although Admiral Baudin and myself have urged that the object at present is not a consideration of the position or acts of the Sicilian Government or Parliament, but whether the Sicilians are willing to accept or reject the terms of pacification which we have brought.

I hear that some of the most influential Members both of the Ministry and Parliament have privately expressed a desire for an accommodation, though all agree that it is utterly incompatible for them to bring the proclamation before the Parliament in its present form.

From this anomalous but fixed opinion there appears little probability of our obtaining any satisfactory answer.

I inclose for your Excellency's information copies of all the correspondence that has passed since my arrival here, including my communications to the different British Consulates and Vice-Consulates connected with the circulation of the Royal Proclamation and the other printed documents, and I hope you will accord in the measures that have been adopted for giving publicity throughout the island to the terms on which a pacific arrangement has been offered by King Ferdinand.

Admiral Baudin will immediately send a small steam-vessel to deliver the printed papers to the several Consulates.

I reserve Her Majesty's steam-vessel "*Oberon*" for the conveyance of this despatch to your Excellency and any further announcements I may have to make before her departure.

I believe some English residents who are anxious to quit Palermo from the expectation of hostilities being renewed in this quarter, will be accommodated with a passage in her to Naples.

A partial change of the Ministers took place on the 13th according to the inclosed list.

I send a few of the most recent copies of the Palermo newspaper which is supposed to be the organ of the Government.

Placards have just been posted in various parts of the town inviting the inhabitants to assist in fortifying it, and they continue to receive foreigners to reinforce their army, about 130 having arrived yesterday.

Amongst the inclosures will be found a letter from Mr. Consul Goodwin, containing observations on certain parts of the Constitution offered to the Sicilians.

His opinions are quite in accordance with those generally entertained here. It may be of some interest to your Excellency, although most of the points adverted to have been already decided on by His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 401.

Prince Butera to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Eccellenza,

Palermo, 10 Marzo, 1849.

IL Sottoscritto, Ministro degli Affari Esteri e del Commercio del Governo del Regno di Sicilia, ha l'onore di accusare a sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Sir William Parker, &c., ricezione della sua nota data a bordo del vascello "Hibernia," nella rada di Palermo, il dì 7 Marzo corrente, e degli annessi documenti, cioè :

Copia di dispaccio di sua Eccellenza Mr. William Temple, &c., dato del dì 4 Marzo corrente, e diretto a sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Parker.

Copia di nota del Principe di Satriano, data di Napoli, li 28 febbrajo, 1849, e diretta a sua Eccellenza Mr. William Temple.

Copia in istampa di un atto del Rè di Napoli, dato di Gaeta, 26 febbrajo, 1849.

Il Sottoscritto nella suddetta sua qualità, e dichiarando nella più ampia forma che lo ammette qualsiasi proposizione si appartiene al Parlamento Generale di Sicilia, stima suo debito, pria di ogni altro dimandare rispettosamente a sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Parker, come debba valutarsi da questo Governo la interposizione delle due Grandi Potenze nel proporre alla Sicilia le condizioni contenute nell'atto di Gaeta, del dì 28 febbrajo, 1849, e se sia loro divisa-mento agire da sole mediatrici nella controversia tra la Sicilia ed il Rè di Napoli, e ciò perchè si è la prima volta che una formale comunicazione vien fatta al Governo Siciliano della mediazione annunciata nei documenti sopra indicati.

L'Eccellenza sua nell'alta sua saggezza saprà apprezzare di quanta importanza si è pel Governo Siciliano esser chiarito, pria di ogni altra seria considerazione, intorno a ciò che il Sottoscritto di sopra le ha esposto.

Il Sottoscritto si onora informarla che l'uguale comunicazione è stata da lui diretta in pari data a sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, e profitta, &c.

(Firmato) PRINCIPE DI BUTERA.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palermo, March 10, 1849.

THE Undersigned, Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Commerce of the Government of the Kingdom of Sicily, has the honour to acknowledge to his Excellency Admiral Sir W. Parker, &c., the receipt of his note dated "Hibernia," in Palermo roads, the 7th of March instant, together with the documents inclosed, viz. :

Copy of a despatch from his Excellency Mr. Wm. Temple, &c., dated the 4th March, and addressed to his Excellency Admiral Parker.

4 R 2

Copy of a note from the Prince of Satriano, dated Naples, 28th February, 1849, and addressed to Mr. W. Temple.

Printed copy of an Edict of the King of Naples, dated Gaeta, 28th February, 1849.

The Undersigned in his above capacity and after declaring that the reception of any proposal belongs to the General Parliament of Sicily, deems it however his duty in the first place to ask respectfully of Sir W. Parker, how the interposition of the two Great Powers is to be considered when proposing to Sicily the conditions contained in the Act of Gaeta of the 28th February 1849, and if it is their intention to act only as mediators in the controversy between Sicily and the King of Naples; and he asks this, because this is the first occasion on which a formal communication has been made to the Sicilian Government of the mediation announced in the above-mentioned documents.

Your Excellency will in your wisdom appreciate of how much importance it is for the Sicilian Government to be enlightened (before taking it into serious consideration) on the subject of the above inquiry.

The Undersigned begs to inform your Excellency at the same time that a similar communication has been this day made to Admiral Baudin.

(Signed) PRINCE OF BUTERA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 401.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Prince Butera.

Excellency,

"*Hibernia*," Palermo, March 10, 1849.

THE Undersigned has had the honour to receive the Prince Butera's note of this date, and hastens in reply to observe that the friendly interposition of the Governments of Great Britain and France, by their Ministers at the Court of Naples, has been doubtless undertaken for the humane purpose of preventing if possible the renewal of sanguinary and desolating conflicts, and of effecting a pacification mutually advantageous to the belligerents.

But the Undersigned feels warranted in asserting that no interference beyond an amicable arrangement is intended by the mediating Powers.

Every effort to this end having been made, nothing will remain in the event of the rejection of the terms conveyed by Vice-Admiral Baudin and the Undersigned to the Sicilian Government, but to notify to them the termination of the armistice, with the hope of preventing until ten days shall have elapsed, the renewal of hostilities by the Neapolitans, an alternative which the Undersigned cannot contemplate without the deepest regret.

Although the Undersigned is now for the first time informed by the note of his Excellency the Prince Butera, that the mediation heretofore adverted to has been undertaken without a formal announcement to the Sicilian Government, it is presumed that they were not unaware of the proceeding; and the Undersigned cannot but flatter himself that the whole transaction has manifested an earnest desire on the part of the mediating Powers, to avert the calamities of civil war and promote the blessing of a reconciliation between the contending parties.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 401.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

"*Hibernia*," Palermo, March 11, 1849.

I INCLOSE herewith, for your information, 150 printed copies of the Proclamation of King Ferdinand II to the Sicilians, dated 28th ultimo, together with copies of Mr. Temple's letter to me, dated 4th of March; of a note to his Excellency from Prince Satriano, dated 28th February, in connexion with the terms of adjustment offered by His Majesty to the Sicilians; and of my letter to the Prince Butera of the 7th instant, the originals of the whole of

which were formally delivered by myself to his Excellency on the 7th instant, in the presence of the members of the Government generally, and of Admiral Baudin, who presented at the same time corresponding documents on the part of M. Rayneval and himself.

The Ministers expressed to us the necessity of the several documents being laid before the Sicilian Parliament, and we submitted the expediency of this being done with as little delay as possible, consistent with the due consideration of the important propositions of which we were the bearers.

To our surprise and disappointment, four days have since elapsed without any communication having been made by the Government to the Parliament on the subject; but we hear, on the contrary, that instead of any disposition to a calm discussion of the question, a decree was passed in Parliament on the evening of the 9th for a levy of six men of certain ages in every thousand, to be armed in defence of the country.

The public mind appears also to be erroneously impressed as to the proffered conditions for the restoration of peace and tranquillity.

It therefore appears desirable that the promulgation of the facts generally should not be delayed, and, as it is expedient that the British merchants should have ample time to draw their own conclusions as to the probability of events consequent on the proposals now under the consideration of the Government, with a view to the adoption of such arrangements as may best suit their own interests, I request you will forward a copy of King Ferdinand's proclamation to be sent to each of the respectable British families or single individuals resident at Palermo and its vicinity, and that you will also have the goodness to let them see the manuscript copies of the letters which I forward herewith.

It is further the intention of Vice-Admiral Baudin and myself to cause a certain number of copies of the manuscript letters to be printed and circulated with the Royal Proclamation, if the Sicilian Government declines doing so; and it will be an object of my early attention to send a number of the different copies so printed in English and Italian to the various Consuls and Vice-Consuls, for distribution throughout the island, that the whole may be understood without ambiguity or misinterpretation by the population of Sicily.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 401.

Prince Butera to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Eccellenza,

Palermo, 12 Marzo, 1849.

Il Sottoscritto si onora accusarle ricezione della nota in data del dì 10 corrente, per la quale l'Eccellenza vostra si è degnata rispondere alla nota del Sottoscritto data del giorno medesimo, e le fa conoscere al tempo stesso avere sotto data del dì 11 Marzo corrente, ricevuta altra nota di sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin parimente responsiva alla nota del Sottoscritto del dì 10 Marzo.

Il carattere amichevole della interposizione delle due Grandi Potenze per mezzo de' rispettivi Ministri alla Corte di Napoli, che vostra Eccellenza si sente autorizzata di dare alla mediazione tendente "ad effectuer une pacificatione scambievolmente vantaggiosa ai belligerenti, e che a tenore fondata persuasione di sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, non è che essenzialmente pacifica e benevola, né sarebbe coercitiva verso la Sicilia," mette il Sottoscritto al caso de apprezzarne tutta la importanza, tanto più oggi che per la prima volta, come il Sottoscritto ha avuto già l'onore di far conoscere all'Eccellenza vostra non ostante la notorietà che pe' tanti rapporti verbali qui come altrove dovea averene, viene essa ad assumere formalmente in faccia a questo Governo tutto il suo carattere ufficiale.

E però nella certezza che l'Eccellenza vostra nel modo medesimo che sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin ha avuto già la bontà di far conoscere che egli non può che aderire alla dichiarazione che al solo Parlamento Generale di Sicilia appartenga il dritto di ammettere proposizioni intorno a qualsiasi trattato, e parimenti convinta della giustizia di tale dichiarazione, il Sottoscritto,

al quale non si appartiene ne anche il convenire in un principio, si vede nella necessità di doverci sommettere una dimanda che volge sovra un punto essenzialissimo che è, per così dire, il cardine sul quale la questione attuale si posa.

Il preambolo dell' Atto di Gaeta del dì 25 febbrajo, 1849, ritenendo come non avvenuti e nulli di dritto e di fatto, tutti gli atti i quali hanno avuto luogo in Sicilia dal 12 Gennaio, 1848, in poi," si presenta di un modo pel quale virtualmente ed espressamente si annullano non solo il Governo attuale di Sicilia con cui le due Grandi Potenze per mezzo dei rispettivi Ministri alla Corte di Napoli, e questo per mezzo di vostra Eccellenza o di sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, si son messe oggimai in relazione per le pratiche di fatto esistenti, ma annulla benanco la esistenza e di dritto e di fatto, di quel Parlamento medesimo di che l'attuale Governo di Sicilia non è che una emanazione non esistendo che pel Parlamento soltanto, al quale, per come già di sopra stabilito si appartiene esclusivamente lo ammettere qualunque proposizione di trattato.

Le due Grandi Potenze col carattere di mediatrici pacifiche hanno assunto di apportare concessioni del Rè di Napoli ai Siciliani che accordate per mezzo di pratiche durante le quali i Siciliani non hanno avuto l'opportunità di essere intesi menomamente, si presentano oggi nella forma di un ultimatum del Rè di Napoli. Ora vostra Eccellenza innanti a questo fatto medesimo che il Sottoscritto è nella necessità di ripetere all' Eccellenza vostra non essere di sua competenza il discutere, non può pria di ogni altro che penetrarsi della contraddizione potente nella forma dell' atto di Gaeta, il quale annullando il Parlamento Generale di Sicilia annulla per conseguenza il Governo che esiste pel Parlamento medesimo, ed annullato perciò l'organo legale di comunicazione col Parlamento che le due Grandi Potenze hanno stimato ritenere come esistente nell' attuale Governo di Sicilia mettendosi in relazione con esso, rende naturalmente inattiva la interposizione della Gran Bretagna e della Francia in Sicilia, e mette il Parlamento, ove mai il Governo potesse presentargli con quell' atto, lo che per la vera natura dell' atto stesso non può fare, mette dico il Parlamento medesimo nella impossibilità di spiegare una azione qualsiasi sull' atto di Gaeta del 25 febbrajo, 1849, pel quale il Rè di Napoli ritiene, come non avvenuti e nulli di diritto e di fatto, tutti gli atti i quali hanno avuto luogo in Sicilia dal 12 Gennaio, 1848, in poi, e per conseguenza non ammette come esistenti nè il Parlamento nè il Governo che emana da esso, e toglie via perciò l'organo legale a cui le due Grandi Potenze si sono degne dirigersi, e l'autorità costituita che esclusivamente può ammettere qualsiasi proposizione.

Il Sottoscritto avendo lealmente esposto il di sopra tanto a vostra Eccellenza quanto a sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, riposa sulla piena fiducia che l'Eccellenza vostra ne vorrà apprezzare tutta la importanza, e profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PRINCIPE DI BUTERA.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palermo, March 12, 1848.

THE Undersigned has the honour of acknowledging the receipt of the note dated the 10th instant, by which your Excellency has been pleased to answer the note of the Undersigned of the same day, and informs you at the same time that he has received another note, dated March 11th, from his Excellency Admiral Baudin, also in answer to the note of the Undersigned of the 10th of March.

The friendly character of the intervention of the two Great Powers through their respective Ministers at the Court of Naples, which your Excellency feels yourself authorized to give to the mediation tending to effect a pacification mutually advantageous to the belligerents, and which, according to the firm persuasion of his Excellency Admiral Baudin, is not otherwise than essentially pacific and benevolent and not coercive towards Sicily, places the Undersigned in the position to appreciate all its importance, the more so now that for the first time, as the Undersigned has already had the honour to declare to your Excellency, notwithstanding the notoriety which through the many verbal reports, it must have had both here and elsewhere, this mediation formally assumes towards this Government all its official character. And therefore in the certainty that

your Excellency like his Excellency Admiral Baudin, who has already had the kindness to make known that he cannot but adhere to the declaration that the right of admitting propositions concerning any treaty whatsoever, belongs to the General Parliament of Sicily alone, is equally convinced of the justice of that declaration, the Undersigned to whom it does not even appertain to admit any principle, feels compelled to submit to you a demand, which involves a most essential point, and which is, so to speak, the pivot upon which the present question turns.

The preamble of the Edict of Gaeta of February 28, 1849, by declaring that all the acts which have taken place in Sicily, from January 12, 1848, up to the present time, must be considered as not having taken place, and as null by law and in fact presents itself in a manner which virtually and expressly not only annuls the actual Government of Sicily with which the two Great Powers, through their respective Ministers at the Court of Naples, and these last through your Excellency and his Excellency Admiral Baudin, have now placed themselves in communication through the actual pending negotiations, but also annuls the legal and *de facto* existence of that same Parliament of which the present Government of Sicily is only an emanation, existing through the Parliament alone, to which, as has been already mentioned above, exclusively belongs the right of admitting any proposition for negotiation.

The two Great Powers, under the character of pacific mediators, have undertaken to be the bearers of concessions from the King of Naples to the Sicilians, which, having been granted in consequence of negotiations during which the Sicilians have not had an opportunity of being at all heard, are now presented in the form of an ultimatum from the King of Naples.

Now, in the face of this fact, which the Undersigned is under the necessity of repeating to your Excellency it is out of his competence to discuss, your Excellency cannot but be beyond all other persons convinced of the evident contradiction in the form of the Edict of Gaeta, which by annulling the General Parliament of Sicily, consequently annuls the Government which owes its existence to that Parliament, and having annulled the legal organ of communication with the Parliament which the two Great Powers by entering into communication with it have recognized as existing in the actual Government of Sicily, thereby naturally renders inoperative the intervention of Great Britain and France in Sicily and places the Parliament, even if the Government could present itself before it with that edict which from the true nature of the edict itself it cannot do, places I say the Parliament itself in the impossibility of taking any steps whatever respecting the Edict of Gaeta of February 28, 1849, whereby the King of Naples declares that all the acts which have taken place in Sicily from the 12th January, 1848, up to the present time, are to be held as not having taken place and are null by law and in fact, and in consequence does not admit the existence either of the Parliament or of the Government which emanates from it, and therefore does away with the legal organ to which the two Great Powers have deigned to address themselves, and the constituted authority which alone can take cognizance of any proposition whatsoever.

The Undersigned, having frankly laid the above before your Excellency as well as before his Excellency Admiral Baudin, relies upon the full confidence that your Excellency will appreciate all the importance of it, and avails himself, &c.

(Signed) PRINCE OF BUTERA.

Inclosure 6 in No. 401.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Prince Butera.

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 13, 1849.

THE Undersigned has been this morning honoured with the receipt of his Excellency Prince Butera's note of the 12th instant, informing him that the terms in which the Royal Proclamation dated at Gaeta the 28th of February, 1849, is couched, render it incompatible for the Sicilian Government to lay that document before the Parliament.

The Undersigned is sorry that this communication has been so long delayed,

and he did not imagine that the present position of the Government authorities and Parliament could undergo any change until the terms offered by the Royal Proclamation were acceded to.

The Undersigned in conjunction with Vice-Admiral Baudin feels anxious to have a decisive reply which he may forward to His Majesty's Minister at Naples. He therefore requests to be explicitly informed as soon as possible, if he is to regard the propositions which he has had the honour to submit for the consideration of the Sicilian Government, as inadmissible in their present form.

The Undersigned cannot but regret that six days have now elapsed without any further announcement to the Sicilians of the statements made by the French and English Ministers with reference to the mediation in which they have been engaged at Naples, and believing that erroneous impressions have been consequently entertained as to every effort having been made by them in the cause of Sicily, it is desirable that the facts should have early and full publicity.

The Undersigned has therefore the honour to apprise his Excellency that printed copies are prepared for circulation, unless the Government, by an unison of feeling, have already given directions for carrying this object into effect. As the Prince Butera's note of yesterday reiterates the declaration that the mediation was never formally notified to the Sicilian Government, the Undersigned begs to forward the extract of a letter dated 11th September, 1848, from the Right Honourable Lord Napier, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Naples, to Mr. Consul Goodwin, who asserts that the despatch was read without delay by him to the President and Sicilian Ministers, and that he placed a translation of the inclosed extract in Italian in the hands of the Marquis Torreaarsa, then Minister for Foreign Affairs and Commerce.

If the communication thus made was not strictly formal, it is nevertheless presumed that the Sicilian Government would thereby have become duly cognisant of the transaction.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Lord Napier to Consul Goodwin.

(Extract.)

Naples, September 11, 1848.

IN acquainting the Government of Sicily of these particulars, which you will do by reading to Marquis Torreaarsa this despatch and its inclosures, you will urge upon them the necessity of contributing by every means to the suspension of hostilities.

They will do well to prepare the Parliament and the public for the unprejudiced consideration of whatever proposals the mediating Powers may recommend, and to weigh the consequences of an unprovoked renewal of warfare against the Neapolitan Government, which by a concurrence of events favourable to its power, has been enabled to bring into the field such an imposing force.

Inclosure 7 in No. 401.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Consul Barker.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 13, 1849.

AS some French officers belonging to Admiral Baudin's squadron are proceeding by a steam-vessel under that flag to ———, I avail myself of the opportunity to apprise you of my arrival here with a part of Her Majesty's squadron, in company with the French Vice-Admiral, as the bearers of King Ferdinand's ultimatum for the adjustment of the Sicilian differences, and I send you copies of a letter from the Prince Satriano to his Excellency Mr. Temple, of Her Majesty's Minister's letter to me, and of one which I addressed to the Sicilian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of our mission, Admiral Baudin having delivered corresponding documents at the same time.

You will see that the terms offered are the best that the joint mediation of the English and French Ministers at Naples could effect, and that the Sicilians

would derive from them many advantages which they did not possess previous to their revolt in January 1848; but they appear to fall so short of the expectations of the latter, that we have too much reason to apprehend they will be rejected, and that a renewal of hostilities will very shortly follow, with the disastrous consequences that may be anticipated from the overwhelming forces of the Neapolitans and the deficient means of resistance on the part of the Sicilians.

The Government of Palermo have up to this time delayed to submit the proposals of which Admiral Baudin and myself were the bearers to their Parliament, or to give us any answer (too evidently for the purpose of gaining time),* and you will probably hear that 2000 of the Sicilian troops have been ordered to march to garrison Catania. The Parliament have at the same time decreed a levy of six men in every thousand, between certain ages, to be armed for the defence of the country.

Much as we regret this indisposition to a pacification on the part of the Sicilians we can do no more than express this feeling. It is right however that while the Sicilian Government adopt these measures, the population generally should be acquainted with the amicable offers that have been made, and with the sentiments of Mr. Temple and M. de Rayneval as to the expediency of their acceptance; also, that nothing further is now to be expected from the mediating Powers.

I therefore think it will be proper for you to distribute the Royal Proclamations (of which twelve are now inclosed) amongst the British residents and other respectable individuals in your neighbourhood, to whom you are also at liberty to show the manuscript documents herein forwarded, that they may have the means of drawing their own conclusions.

Admiral Baudin and myself are getting copies of them printed, which will be soon transmitted to the Consular Agents of our respective countries in Sicily to carry out this view, and we shall inform the Sicilian Government that such is our intention.

As soon as the rejection of the King's overture is ascertained beyond a doubt, our respective squadrons will be withdrawn from Palermo, leaving only such ships as may be necessary for the protection of the British and French residents and their property under the observance of a strict neutrality, and it will be my care to send a vessel for a similar purpose to Catania and Syracuse.

I trust however that the prudence of our countrymen will induce them to abstain as heretofore from interference in the political contentions which may draw upon them any offensive act.

† I leave it to your discretion to promulgate such parts only of this letter as may appear to you advisable for promoting the desired measure of pacification.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 8 in No. 401.

Consul Goodwin to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

Palermo, March 13, 1849.

AN almost uninterrupted experience of fourteen years devoted to the study of the internal Government of Sicily, leads me to submit respectfully to your Excellency a few desultory observations on the Royal Proclamation dated Gaeta, February 28, 1849.

The third paragraph of the preamble contains the following clause: "regarding as not having happened, and as null in right and effect, all acts which have taken place from January 12, 1848, until now."

Waiving the question whether this clause does or does not nullify the

* The words "too evidently for the purpose of gaining time" omitted in the letter to the Vice-Consul at Syracuse.

† Omitted in letters to the Vice-Consuls at Catania and Syracuse.

Government and the Parliament, I beg to observe that it does away with many Acts of Parliament, about the utility of which all parties are agreed. Such are the abolition of the grinding-tax and the reduction of the land-taxes, measures which have been copied by the King's authorities in Messina.

The 2nd Article, which provides that no man shall be arrested or tried except in cases provided for by law, says nothing about the sanctity of home. Any agent of power may therefore enter a house without a warrant to make a domiciliary visit as heretofore.

The 4th Article, which gives the right of printing and publishing, says nothing about the censorship of the press and the revisorship of foreign publications.

The 24th and 25th Articles, which say that the administration of justice and all other administrations shall be regulated by the laws in force, and that all territorial divisions and jurisdictions shall remain unaltered, imply the restoration of the Police and the Intendencies, odious institutions, which the experience of fifteen months since their total abolition proves to have been unnecessary.

The 37th Article, which says that the direct taxes shall be voted annually by the Chambers, says also that the indirect may be continued for many years. The Minister therefore who may be content to give up the direct taxes, which bring in only 583,393*l.* per annum, may do without Parliament for many years together, because the indirect taxes, which bring in 670,916*l.*, will be sufficient to cover the chief expenses of Government.

The 45th Article, which says that the Peers shall be named by the King, does away with the ancient rights of thirteen Lords Spiritual and forty-nine Lords Temporal secured to them by the Constitution of 1812.

The 53rd Article fixes the qualification of an elector at 18*l.* per annum in towns and districts, and at 50*l.* in Palermo; and the 55th fixes the qualification of a Representative at 300*l.* for a district, 500*l.* for Palermo, and 159*l.* for other towns. These rates may have been moderate enough in 1812, when wheat was at 12*l.* 6*d.* a-quarter, but they are excessive now when it has sunk to 40*s.* 4*d.*, a full two-thirds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 9 in No. 401.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls in Sicily.

Sir, "Hibernia," Palermo, March 15, 1849.

YOU will receive herewith forty printed copies of a proclamation issued from Gaeta on the 28th February, 1849, sixteen printed copies of communications which were delivered by me to the Sicilian Government at Palermo on Wednesday the 7th instant, and ten copies of communications of a similar nature from Vice-Admiral Baudin, Commander-in-chief of the French naval forces. They refer to proposals for a pacific arrangement of the differences at present existing between His Majesty and the Sicilians; and it is desirable they should be promulgated as extensively as possible throughout this island, that the population generally may be correctly informed of what has been done in furtherance of an amicable adjustment.

I therefore request you will distribute them amongst the British residents and all the respectable persons in the vicinity of your Consulate, sending one copy of each paper to every family or single individual occupying a separate residence, but taking especial care that none of them are placarded, which would be an assumption that we should not be justified in exercising.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 10 in No. 401.

A List of the Members of the Sicilian Government. March 14, 1849.

Prince Butera	-	-	Foreign Affairs and Commerce.
Gaetano Catalano	-	-	Interior.
Vicenzo di Marco	-	-	Public Works.
Pasquale Calvi	-	-	Justice.
Mariano Stabile	-	-	War and Finance.
Marchese Torrecasa	-	-	Nominated, but declined.

Inclosure 11 in No. 401.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 18, 1849.

I HAD a visit on the 15th instant from Prince Butera, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Signor Stabile, the Minister of War, and Signor Alessandro, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Sicilian Government.

They had become aware that Vice-Admiral Baudin and myself proposed to leave Palermo in a few days from our hopelessness of obtaining an answer on the subject of our present mission, and they were anxious to explain verbally the embarrassing position in which they found themselves placed.

They gave me distinctly to understand that the Sicilian Government does not in anywise accept or reject the terms of adjustment of which we were the bearers; that it was a question on which their Parliament only could decide, but that the Ministers could not possibly present to the Chambers the printed Royal Proclamation furnished to Vice-Admiral Baudin and myself by your Excellency and M. de Rayneval in its present form.

I requested them to state their objections explicitly in writing, to prevent any misapprehension of their verbal explanation, as also in what form the terms could be presented to their Parliament.

I have now the honour to transmit in original two notes which I have received from Prince Butera on the points adverted to.

As these communications in the dilemma in which the Sicilian Government professes itself to be placed preclude any further progress in our mission, Vice-Admiral Baudin and myself concur in the expediency of imparting them without delay to your Excellency and M. de Rayneval, who may possibly be able to devise some expedient for putting the proposals in such a shape as may afford a prospect of their being brought under the consideration of the Representatives of the Sicilian people now assembled in Parliament.

We shall however intimate to the Sicilian Government that we consider ourselves justified from the answers they have given, to depart at any moment with the squadrons from Palermo, but we have determined to remain until we receive replies from your Excellencies, which we shall await with anxiety.

I have directed Captain Sir James Stirling to send the "Bulldog" or "Spitfire" with the despatches of yourself and M. de Rayneval as soon as they are ready for transmission.

In the meantime Vice-Admiral Baudin and myself felt it incumbent on us to apprise the Sicilian Government that, as we have not been in any way encouraged by them to expect a favourable result to the propositions which were delivered on the 7th instant, it is possible the Neapolitan forces may be ordered to advance, and they must hold themselves prepared for the termination of the armistice at the expiration of ten days from the receipt of our notice to that effect, which will be presented on the departure of the "Ardent."

I am bound to add that the accounts received from every quarter of the island express strong dissatisfaction at the terms of adjustment offered by His Sicilian Majesty, and evince a firm disposition of the Sicilian people to support the Government and Parliament in resisting them.

A very strong feeling of patriotic enthusiasm unquestionably pervades all classes at Palermo.

(Signed)

I have, &c.

W. PARKER.

Inclosure 12 in No. 401.

Prince Butera to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Eccellenza,

Palermo, 16 Marzo, 1849.

IL Sottoscritto trovasi già onorato della nota di vostra Eccellenza del 13 corrente, e d'altra nota di sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin del 14 andante, in risposta a quella del Sottoscritto data del 12 di questo mese.

Sul contenuto della prima parte della nota suddetta dell' Eccellenza vostra, il Sottoscritto, referendosi a quanto ha esposto nella sua nota del 12 Marzo, si vede nella necessità di aggiungere qualche altra riflessione in sviluppo del suo assunto.

Oltre alla contraddizione manifesta del preambolo dell' Atto di Gaeta del 28 febbrajo, pel quale dall' un canto si ritengono " come non avvenuti e nulli di dritto e di fatto, tutti gli atti i quali hanno avuto luogo in Sicilia dal 12 Gennaro 1848 in poi," il che importa che si nega al Parlamento, e perciò al Governo che, come già detto, è una emanazione di esso, anche una esistenza di fatto; e dall' altro canto si fa ai Siciliani un appello al quale essi non potrebbero rispondere che per mezzo della stessa rappresentanza nazionale; oltre ancora alla assurdità del preambolo sudetto, il quale assume come principio ciò che nella ipotesi della accettazione, potrebbe esser soltanto una conseguenza, il Sottoscritto è nell' obbligo di far conoscere rispettosamente a vostra Eccellenza che questo Governo, il quale non è altra cosa che il potere a cui il Parlamento Generale di Sicilia ha affidato la semplice e mera esecuzione delle leggi da esso decretate, farebbe atto illegale ed incorrerebbe a buon dritto l'accusa e la pena di fellonia ove presentasse al Parlamento un atto direttamente derivante da un potere non riconosciuto ed anzi espressamente condannato dai decreti del Parlamento medesimo.

Vostra Eccellenza perciò vede bene che il Sottoscritto, al quale, come già dichiarato tanto a vostra Eccellenza quanto a sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, non si appartiene neanche il convenire in un principio qualunque riguardo al merito delle proposizioni contenute nell' Atto di Gaeta del 28 febbrajo, è nella penosa necessità di dichiararle coscienzosamente la impossibilità di presentare al General Parlamento di Sicilia le proposizioni sudette, nella loro forma attuale; dichiarazione che il Sottoscritto si affretta a fare, perchè vostra Eccellenza, a tenore della sua nota del 13 andante, "posse spedirla al Ministro di Sua Maestà Britannica in Napoli" dolente come è al tempo stesso il Sottoscritto del disagio in che si stanno tanto vostra Eccellenza quanto sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, per motivi che il Sottoscritto ha la piena fiducia, non potersi dalle Eccellenze loro che stimare essenzialmente importanti ed incontrovertibili.

Quanto poi a quella parte della nota sudetta per la quale l' Eccellenza vostra esprime il suo dispiacere che sei giorni sieno trascorsi senza essersi pubblicati i documenti ricevuti da vostra Eccellenza in data del 7 corrente, il Sottoscritto, come già ebbe l'onore di far conoscere a sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, rispondendo alla di lui nota del 13 Marzo, è parimente nell' obbligo di far conoscere all' Eccellenza vostra che questo Governo, tanto per le ragioni esposte nelle due note del Sottoscritto date del 10 e del 12 Marzo corrente, quanto per quelle in questa comprese, non ha presentato, ne ha in conseguenza per questo unico modo costituzionale reso di pubblica ragione i documenti sopraindicati. E il Sottoscritto stima ora suo dovere lo aggiungere a vostra Eccellenza che avendo egli ogni ragione di credere che le due Grandi Potenze sono spinte dal desiderio di operare una mediazione pacifica, il Sottoscritto lascia alla sperimentata saggezza di vostra Eccellenza il considerare se la pubblicazione non costituzionale di documenti intorno ai quali i Siciliani possono soltanto rispondere legalmente per l'unico mezzo del loro Parlamento non impedirebbe qualunque maturo e tranquillo discussione della quale può e dee derivare una qualsiasi risoluzione legale.

Il Sottoscritto, nella piena fiducia che vostra Eccellenza è convinta delle ragioni che questo Governo ha messe avanti relativamente alla forma delle comunicazioni contenute nei documenti che il Sottoscritto ha avuto l'onore di

ricevere dell' Eccellenza vostra senza entrare menomamente nella sostanza delle comunicazioni sudette, lo che come già dichiarato, si appartiene soltanto al Parlamento Generale di Sicilia.

Profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PRINCIPE DI BUTERA.

(Translation.)

Your Excellency,

Palermo, March 16, 1849.

THE Undersigned has had the honour to receive your Excellency's note of the 13th instant, as well as the other note from his Excellency Admiral Baudin of the 14th instant, in answer to that of the Undersigned under date of the 12th of this month.

With respect to the contents of the first part of the above-mentioned note, the Undersigned, referring to what he stated in his note of the 12th of March, finds himself under the necessity of adding some other reflections in explanation of its contents.

Besides the manifest contradiction contained in the preamble of the Edict of Gaeta of the 28th of February, whereby on the one hand all the acts which have taken place in Sicily from January 12, 1848, up to this time are to be considered as never having taken place and to be null by law and in fact, which means that even a *de facto* existence is denied to the Parliament, and therefore to the Government which, as has been already stated, is an emanation from it; and on the other hand, an appeal is made to the Sicilians to which they can return no answer except through the channel of that same national representation; besides moreover the absurdity of the said preamble, which assumes as a principle that which under the hypothesis of its being accepted could only be a consequence, the Undersigned finds himself compelled respectfully to acquaint your Excellency that this Government, which is nothing else than the power to which the General Parliament of Sicily has confided the simple and mere execution of the laws decreed by it would commit an illegal act, and would justly incur the accusation and penalties of felony, if it should present to the Parliament an act immediately proceeding from a power not recognized and even expressly condemned by the decrees of the Parliament itself.

Your Excellency therefore perceives clearly that the Undersigned, to whom as has been declared as well to your Excellency as to his Excellency Admiral Baudin, it does not belong even to acquiesce in any principle whatever respecting the merits of the propositions contained in the Edict of Gaeta of February 28th, is under the painful necessity of conscientiously declaring to you the impossibility of presenting the said propositions to the General Parliament of Sicily in their present form, a declaration which the Undersigned hastens to make, in order that your Excellency, according to the tenor of your note of the 13th instant, may send it to Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Naples, grieved as the Undersigned is at the same time at the inconvenience to which your Excellency as well as his Excellency Admiral Baudin, is exposed, for reasons which the Undersigned has full confidence cannot be otherwise considered by your Excellency than essentially important and incontrovertible.

With regard however to that part of the said note in which your Excellency expresses your regret that six days should have elapsed without the documents received from your Excellency under date of the 7th instant having been published, the Undersigned, as he had already the honour to acquaint his Excellency Admiral Baudin, in answer to his note of the 13th of March, is also bound to acquaint your Excellency that this Government, both on account of the reasons expressed in the two notes of the Undersigned of the 10th and 12th of March, as well as on account of those comprised in this present note, has not presented the above-mentioned documents, nor caused them to be made public through this the only constitutional channel.

And the Undersigned now considers it to be his duty to add to your Excellency, that as he has every reason to believe that the two Great Powers are animated by a desire to effect a pacific mediation, the Undersigned leaves it to the proved wisdom of your Excellency to consider whether the unconstitutional publication of documents respecting which the Sicilians can only legally return an answer by means alone of their Parliament, would not impede any mature

and tranquil discussion from which alone any legal discussion whatsoever can or ought to proceed.

The Undersigned, in the full confidence that your Excellency is convinced of the justice of the reasons which this Government has put forward respecting the form of the communications contained in the documents which the Undersigned has had the honour to receive from your Excellency, without entering in the least into the subject of the said communications, the consideration of which, as has been already declared, appertains alone to the General Parliament of Sicily, avails, &c.

(Signed) PRINCE BUTERA.

Inclosure 13 in No. 401.

Prince Butera to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Eccellenza,

Palermo, 17 Marzo, 1849.

IL Sottoscritto, in continuazione, e non derogando menomamente a quanto già esposto nelle precedenti sue note, si onora ripetere all' Eccellenza vostra che nella sua qualità di Ministro Costituzionale non può egli assolutamente presentare al Parlamento Generale di Sicilia qualsiasi atto emanante direttamente da un Potere non solo conosciuto in Sicilia, ma condannato da solenni decreti del Parlamento medesimo.

Il Sottoscritto ha perimente l'onore di reiterare a vostra Eccellenza che per la ragioni già espressa nelle suddette sue note precedenti del 12 e del 16 corrente Marzo, il Sottoscritto non può presentare al Parlamento l'atto di Gaeta nell' attuale sua forma.

Il Sottoscritto però si permette di far conoscere più chiaramente a vostra Eccellenza che questo Governo sente il dovere, e gli carre l'obbligo di presentare al Parlamento Generale di Sicilia al quale come già stabilito si appartiene soltanto il deciderne qualsiasi proposizione che direttamente provenga dalle due Grandi Potenze.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Firmato) PRINCIPE DI BUTERA;

(Translation.)

Your Excellency,

Palermo, March 17, 1849.

THE Undersigned, in continuation of his preceding notes and without altering in the least what has been already set forth in them, has the honour to repeat to your Excellency, that in his capacity of a Constitutional Minister, he absolutely cannot present to the General Parliament of Sicily any act whatsoever, emanating directly from a power not only not recognized in Sicily, but also condemned by the solemn decrees of the Parliament itself.

The Undersigned has also the honour to repeat to your Excellency, that for the reasons already expressed in his above-mentioned preceding notes of the 12th and 16th of the current month of March, the Undersigned cannot present the Edict of Gaeta to Parliament in its present form.

The Undersigned however allows himself to make known to your Excellency more clearly, that this Government feels it to be its duty, and is under the obligation to present any proposition whatever which comes directly from the two Great Powers to the General Parliament of Sicily, which alone has the right to decide upon it.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) PRINCE BUTERA.

No. 402.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 1.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 21, 1849.

I INCLOSE copies and translations of two notes addressed to me by Prince Satriano, in which he assumes that the Sicilians have refused the terms offered by the King, in consequence of his having heard that the Chambers at Palermo have passed a decree calling out all the male population from the ages of eighteen to thirty to take arms, and I also inclose a copy of my answer.

I likewise inclose to your Lordship copy of a joint note which M. de Rayneval and I have addressed to Prince Satriano informing him of our intention to proceed to Palermo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 402.

Prince Satriano to the Hon. W. Temple.

Eccellenza,

Napoli, 18 Marzo, 1849.

AL Sottoscritto è pervenuta non solo la copia ufficiale del decreto del sedicente Parlamento di Sicilia del dì 10 corrente, il quale chiama alle armi tutti i Siciliani dalla età di 18 a 30 anni, più sei individui per ciascun migliaio di anime, ma gli è pur giunto il regolamento pubblicato l'indomani 11 Marzo dal Ministro della Guerra, con cui emettonsi tutte le prescrizioni necessarie per dare a quel decreto stesso immediata esecuzione.

Non potendo esservi atti i quali con maggior evidenza dichiarino che sonosi rigettate dal così detto Governo di Sicilia le sovrane concessioni recate in Palermo dai Signori Ammiragli Parker e Baudin quattro giorni prima che si fosse ivi presa siffatta ostile determinazione, così il Sottoscritto prega l'Eccellenza vostra di dirgli se abbia certa notizia che il Signor Ammiraglio Parker dopo la pubblicazione del decreto sumentovato sia da Palermo partito, come avea solennemente promesso in Gaeta a Sua Maestà il Rè mio Augusto Sovrano di praticarlo, nel caso, di già verificatosi, di non accoglienza delle sovrane concessioni. Non potrà sfuggire all'alta penetrazione dell'Eccellenza vostra quali gravissime conseguenze sono per derivare per questo Real Governo dalla prolungata ignoranza in cui tiensi dei motivi pei quali i Signori Ammiragli protraggono la loro permanenza in Palermo, dopo che collà si è risposto con un grido di guerra alle condizioni di pace che essi avevano assunto il mandato di offrire.

Ricorda in proposito il Sottoscritto che le squadre giunsero in Palermo il mattino del 6 Marzo, la leva in massa fu decretata e pubblicata il dì 10, ed oggi 18 niun avviso è stato ancora dall'Eccellenza vostra notificato di avere le forze navali di Francia e d'Inghilterra abbandonata a se stessa la Sicilia.

Per isventura non è a dubitarsi che ogni indugio tenda direttamente ad accrescere non già le probabilità, ma la certezza di aumentarsi quella effusione di sangue che fu segno all'intervento, dagli stessi Ammiragli notificato il dì 11 Settembre, 1848, al Sottoscritto, il quale intervento se non fosse avvenuto è cosa di universale notorietà che la occupazione della intera Sicilia, dopo l'entrata delle Reali truppe in Messina non avrebbe più costato mien sacrificio cruento.

Il Sottoscritto prega quindi vostra Eccellenza di compiacersi fargli noto quanto può essere a di lei notizia sullo adempimento delle promesse fatte dai Signori Ammiragli in Gaeta prima della loro partenza per Palermo, e profitta, &c.
(Firmato) IL PRINCIPE DI SATRIANO.

(Translation.)

Naples, March 18, 1849.

THE Undersigned has not only received the official copy of the decree of the self-styled Parliament of Sicily of the 10th instant, which calls to arms all the Sicilians between 18 and 30 years of age, as well as six individuals for

every thousand souls, but he has also received the regulation which was published the day after, on the 11th instant, by the Minister of War, containing the necessary dispositions for carrying it into immediate execution.

As no acts could more clearly show that the King's concessions, which had been taken to Palermo by the Admirals Parker and Baudin four days before the Sicilians had taken this hostile determination, have been refused by the so-called Government of Sicily, the Undersigned begs his Excellency to let him know whether he has had positive information that Admiral Parker, after the publication of the above-mentioned decree has left Palermo, as he solemnly promised at Gaeta to His Majesty the King my august master that he would do, in case, as has now happened, the King's concessions should not be accepted.

His Excellency cannot fail to perceive how serious the consequences may prove to the Government which will arise from the prolonged ignorance in which it is kept of the reasons which induce the Admirals to continue their stay at Palermo, after the conditions of peace which they had undertaken to offer have been answered there with the cry of war.

The Undersigned thinks it right to observe that the two squadrons arrived at Palermo on the morning of the 6th of March, the general levy of men was decreed and published on the 10th, and until to-day, the 18th, his Excellency has not given any intimation that the naval forces of France and England have abandoned Sicily to her own resources.

Unfortunately it cannot be doubted but that every delay must directly tend to add not only to the probability but to the certainty of that increased effusion of blood which it was the object of the intervention to avoid, as the Admirals themselves declared to the Undersigned on the 11th September 1848; and if this intervention had not taken place, it is a matter of universal notoriety that the occupation of the whole of Sicily after the taking of Messina by the Royal troops would not have cost any sacrifice of blood.

The Undersigned begs his Excellency therefore to be pleased to communicate to him any information of which he may be in possession as to the fulfilment of the promises made by the Admirals at Gaeta before their departure for Palermo, and he avails, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE SATRIANO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 402.

Prince Satriano to the Hon. W. Temple.

Eccellenza,

Napoli, 20 Marzo, 1849, alle 11½ A.M.

PERDONI se con questa mia sia a pregare di nuovo vostra Eccellenza perchè voglia compiacersi onorare di risposta la nota che ho avuto l'onore diriggerle jeri l'altro 18 del corrente, il che ora l'è facile, avendo io visto jeri al giorno giungere da Palermo il piroscalo della real marina Inglese "l'ardente," che quà reca dispaeci e nuove di dara recentissima.

Il Signor Ammiraglio Parker era latore pel sedicente Governo di Palermo di un ultimatum. Questo non ammetteva discussioni, ed essendo egli ivi giunto il dì 6 Marzo, poteva volendolo, in pochi giorni sapere se lo stesso accettavasi o ricusavasi. In questo secondo caso egli aveva promesso ci allontanarsi colla sua squadra dai lidi Siciliani.

Alla presentazione dell' ultimatum suddetto, il sedicente Governo di Sicilia, senza curarsi di rispondere ne verbalmente, ne in iscritto diede di fatto li 10 Marzo la più eloquente fra tutte le risposte, decretando la chiamata nelle file dell' esercito di tutti gli uomini da 18 a 30 anni, oltre sei uomini per ogni mille animi, e manche di ciò vostra Eccellenza si è degnate darne partecipazione.

Il seguente breve como dei fatti reportati nell' ufficiale rapporto di quel Ministro della Guerra degli 8 Febraro prossimo passato, giustificcheranno forse agli occhi di vostra Eccellenza la premura con la quale insisto perchè si ponga fine ad un indugio sì evidentemente dannoso alla cansa della giustizia, che è pur quella del Rè mio augusto Sovrano.

Dopo la occupazione di Messina avvenuta ne' giorni 6 e 7 Settembre, 1848, alla Sicilia che avea ivi riuniti tutti i suoi mezzi di difesa, dice il suddetto Ministro della Guerra, che, "Non rinaneano se non poco meno di 4 mila

uomini di truppa regolare, e con mezza brigata di artiglieria di campagna senz'armi, senza munizioni, senza danaro.

Dal dì 8 Settembre fino al dì 8 febbrajo egli soggiunge che la Sicilia ha tratto

		Fucil.	
		300	
		300	
Dall' Inghilterra	- - - -	591	
		2,000	
		1,700	
			4,891
Dalla Francia	- - - -	9,567	
		5,000	
			14,567
			19,458
Da provenienze promiscue,—			
Pistole	- - - -	- - - -	753
Sciabre	- - - -	- - - -	1,460
Lance	- - - -	- - - -	3,680
Cannoni	- - - -	- - - -	20
Obici fra quali quelli alla Paixhans di grande diametro	- - - -	- - - -	80
Mortari	- - - -	- - - -	3

E ciò oltre trenta cannoni da 36, una batteria di campagna, ed una obici di montagna comprate in Francia, le quali artiglierie dicevasi nel rapporto ministeriale non essere ancora giunte fino all'anzidetto giorno 8 febbrajo.

Quanto è sopra cennato riguarda le armi soltanto, non volendo io infastidirla con la enumerazione di tutto il resto, ma debbo soggiungere che ne' cinque mesi che decorsero fra la intima fattami in Messina dai Signori Parker e Baudin per sospendere le ostilità, ed il dì 8 febbrajo l'esercito di ordinanza avea riuniti ed attivati,

Ufficiali di Stato Maggiore—di Artiglieria -	-	}	181
del Genio -	-		
Di ogni altra arma -	- - - -	- - - -	985
Artiglieri -	- - - -	- - - -	1227
Soldati delle truppe del genio -	- - - -	- - - -	525
Di altre armi -	- - - -	- - - -	11,421

Totale delle truppe di ordinanza il dì 8 febbrajo,
1848 - - - - - 14,339

A questo stato bisogna aggiungere 5000 uomini circa di forze semi regolari.

Altri ufficiali rapporti posteriormente giunti degli agenti Napolitani allo estero han fatto certa questo Real Governo di spedizioni di armi, di munizioni, di attrezzi da guerra di ogni maniera, di ufficiali, di sottufficiali, e di soldati arruolati per ingrossar in Sicilia le truppe de' ribelli, e quel che più monta la partenza di già avvenuta dall' Inghilterra di due grandi vapori da guerra della forza ognuno di 450 cavalli, denominati "Bombay" e "Victis," entrambi armati con cannoni ed obici di grosso calibro, equipaggiati con marinari Inglesi, e forze da Inglesi comandati.

Ciò costa, ripeto di quanto da Londra scrivesi aggiungendosi che ne primi giorni di Aprile prossimo i cennati due legni saranno in Malta, ove prenderanno a bordo le loro artiglierie le quali li hanno ivi preceduti.

Se dunque l'armistizio imposto alle Reali truppe il dì 11 Settembre ha talmente cangiato lo stato delle cose, vostra Eccellenza troverà non nè dubito, ragionevole che ogni indugio tornando vantaggioso per coloro che rispondono a proporzione di pace con la decisa volontà di far guerra, e pregiudizievole a chi è chiamato a combattere la ribellione, io di nuovo la scongiuro di mettersi presto nel caso di annunziare che il Signor Ammiraglio Parker, fedele alle sue promesse, siasi dalla Sicilia partito una con la squadra sotto i di lui ordini.

Accolga, &c.

(Firmato)

IL PRINCIPE DE SATRIANO.

4 T

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Naples, March 20, 1849, 11½ A.M.

PARDON me if I again write to beg your Excellency to have the kindness to honour with an answer to the note which I had the honour to address to you the day before yesterday, the 18th instant, which is now easy, as I saw the steamer "Ardent," belonging to the English Royal Navy, arrive yesterday from Palermo, which brings here despatches and news of the most recent date.

Admiral Parker was the bearer of an ultimatum to the self-styled Government of Palermo. This did not admit of discussion, and as he arrived there on the 6th of March he could, had he been willing, have known in a few days whether it was refused or accepted.

In the latter case he had promised to leave with his squadron the Sicilian shores.

On the presentation of the said ultimatum, the self-styled Government of Sicily, without taking the trouble to send an answer either verbally or in writing, gave in its actions, on the 10th of March, the most eloquent of all answers, by decreeing the calling to the ranks of the army all men between the ages of 18 and 30 years, besides six men for every thousand souls, and not even this has your Excellency deigned to participate to us.

The following brief sketch of the facts stated in the official report of the 8th of February, of the Sicilian Minister of War, will perhaps justify in your Excellency's eyes the importunity with which I urge the necessity of putting an end to a delay so evidently hurtful to the cause of justice, which is also that of the King my august master.

After the occupation of Messina, which took place on the 6th and 7th of September, 1848, the said Minister of War says that there only remained to Sicily which had united there all its means of defence, somewhat under 4000 regular troops and half a brigade of artillery, without arms, ammunition, or money.

From the 8th of September up to the 8th of February, he adds that Sicily had received

	Muskets.	
	300	
	300	
From England - - - - -	591	
	2,000	
	1,700	
		4,891
From France - - - - -	9,567	
	5,000	
		14,567
		19,458
From various sources,—		
Pistols - - - - -	- - - - -	735
Sabres - - - - -	- - - - -	1,460
Lances - - - - -	- - - - -	3,680
Cannons - - - - -	- - - - -	20
Carronades, some Paixhans of great calibre - - - - -	- - - - -	80
Mortars - - - - -	- - - - -	3

besides thirty 36-pounders, a field-battery and mountain-train bought in France, which as is said in the said ministerial report, had not arrived up to the said 8th day of February.

The above remarks relate to the arms alone, as I do not wish to weary you with the enumeration of all the rest, but I must add that in the five months which have elapsed between the intimation given to me in Messina, by Admirals Parker and Baudin to suspend hostilities, and the 8th of February, the regular army has united and put into activity

Officers of the staff—Artillery	-	-	-	}	181
Engineer	-	-	-		
Officers of every other description	-	-	-		985
Artillerymen	-	-	-		1,227
Engineer soldiers	-	-	-		525
Of other descriptions	-	-	-		11,421
Total amount of regular troops on February 8,					
1849	-	-	-	-	14,339

To this account must be added about 5000 men belonging to a semi-regular force.

Other official reports subsequently received from Neapolitan agents abroad, have assured this Government of the sending of arms, ammunition, and implements of war of all kinds; of officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers who have been enrolled for the purpose of increasing the troops of the rebels in Sicily, and of that which is of still greater importance, the departure which has already taken place from England, of two great war-steamers of 450 horse-power each, called "Bombay" and "Victis," both armed with cannons and guns carrying shells of great calibre, manned by English sailors, and perhaps commanded by Englishmen.

This is proved, I repeat, by what has been written from London; and it is added that in the beginning of April the said two ships will be at Malta, where they will take on board their guns, which have preceded them there.

If the armistice imposed on the Royal troops on the 11th of September has so changed the aspect of things, your Excellency I do not doubt will find it reasonable that as every delay turns to the advantage of those who answer to propositions of peace with the determined will to make war, and is prejudicial to those who are called upon to combat rebellion, I should again implore you place yourself quickly in a position to announce that Admiral Parker, faithful to his promises, has left Sicily with the squadron under his orders.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE OF SATHIANO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 402.

The Hon. W. Temple to Prince Satriano.

Prince,

Naples, March 20, 1849.

I WAS on the point of sending to your Excellency an answer to the note which you did me the honour of addressing to me on the 18th instant, to inform your Excellency that I had received no communication from Admiral Sir William Parker; but that from a letter which had been received from Admiral Baudin, dated the 13th instant, it appeared that no definitive answer had been given by the Sicilians to the propositions which were presented to them on the 7th instant by the Admirals, and that the Admirals did not consider the decree to which your Excellency alludes as a refusal to negotiate, but only as a measure of precaution.

The arrival of the British steamer "Ardent" induced me to delay sending that answer, as it brought me despatches from Admiral Parker enabling me to afford your Excellency more precise information upon the subjects to which that note and the one I received from your Excellency to-day, refer.

The "Ardent" left Palermo on the 18th instant, bringing despatches of that date, from which it appears that a question of form had arisen which prevented the Sicilians returning an answer to the Admirals, but the propositions had not been rejected, nor did the Admirals consider the decree alluded to by your Excellency to be equivalent to a rejection.

Admiral Parker and Admiral Baudin feeling themselves however bound not to admit of any unnecessary delay in the negotiations, have fixed a term, after which they have declared it to be their intention to leave Sicily, and the term fixed upon is the 29th of this month.

On the same day, the 29th of March, the orders given by the British and

French Admirals to the officers commanding the naval forces of England and France at Messina will be revoked; but I still hope that a spirit of conciliation will prevail at Palermo before that period arrives.

In the meantime the Admirals, with the view of making known to the whole of Sicily the intentions of the King, have sent by the steamer "Ariel" a number of the Royal Proclamations to be placed in the hands of the Consular Agents of England and France at all the towns on the coast of Sicily.

The Admirals were only waiting for an answer from M. de Rayneval and myself upon a matter of form which might enable them to make another attempt to bring about a pacific arrangement, and if they fail, it was their intention to quit Palermo.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 402.

The Hon. W. Temple and M. de Rayneval to Prince Satriano.

Prince, Naples, 21 Mars, 1849.

L'ARDENT désir qui nous anime de contribuer, autant qu'il peut être en nous, à la solution pacifique de la Question Sicilienne, qui malheureusement se présente de jour en jour sous un aspect plus défavorable, nous a décidés à nous rendre à Palermo près de MM. les Amiraux, afin d'unir nos instances aux leurs. Nous voulons nous rendre le témoignage de n'avoir épargné aucun effort pour éviter l'effusion du sang, et pour préserver les deux partis des malheurs qui sont inséparables de la guerre. Nous partons aujourd'hui même, et dans quatre ou cinq jours nous ferons connaître à votre Excellence le résultat de notre démarche.

Agréez, &c.
(Signed) CTE. DE RAYNEVAL. W. TEMPLE.

(Translation.)

Prince, Naples, March 21, 1849.

THE ardent desire by which we are animated to contribute, as much as in us lays, to the peaceable solution of the Sicilian Question, which unhappily presents itself from day to day under a more unfavourable aspect, has decided us to join our Admirals at Palermo, in order to unite our importunities to theirs. We desire to manifest for ourselves that we have spared no effort to prevent the effusion of blood, and to preserve the two parties from the calamities which are inseparable from war. We set out this very day, and we will communicate to your Excellency in four or five days the result of our proceedings.

Receive, &c.

No. 403.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 1.)

My Lord, Naples, March 21, 1849.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I addressed to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker at Palermo previously to the arrival of Her Majesty's steamer "Ardent" from that place, and transmitting to him copy and translation of the note from Prince Satriano which I received on the 18th instant

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure in No. 403.

The Hon. W. Temple to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

Naples, March 19, 1849.

I INCLOSE to you a copy and translation of a note which was addressed to me yesterday by Prince Satriano, a similar note having been sent at the same time to M. de Rayneval.

According to this note, Prince Satriano having been informed that the Sicilian Parliament had decreed a levy *en masse* of all Sicilians between the ages of 18 and 30, has immediately concluded that the conditions offered by you and Admiral Baudin had been rejected by the Sicilians; and he asks therefore whether you quitted Palermo directly after the publication of the decree, in accordance with a promise which he asserts that you made to the King at Gaeta before your departure for Palermo.

He observes that you arrived at Palermo on the 6th, that the levy was decreed on the 10th, and on the 18th no advice had been received of your having left Palermo.

He says that any delay must tend to increase the certainty of causing a greater effusion of blood, to prevent which was the reason assigned by you and Admiral Baudin for the intervention; and he asserts it to be a matter of general notoriety that if that intervention had not taken place, the occupation of the whole of Sicily by the Neapolitan army, after the capture of Messina, would not have caused any sacrifice of life; and he concludes by asking me to make known to him what information I have received respecting the fulfilment of the promise made by you and Admiral Baudin. M. de Rayneval had communicated to Prince Satriano the information which Admiral Baudin had given him of the occurrences down to the 13th instant, at which time, though Prince Butera had apparently sought delay, no definitive answer had been given to the conditions proposed; for the decree of the 10th, though a preparatory measure, is not equivalent to a refusal of the terms offered, and can no more be considered to be an act of hostility than the reinforcement of steamers, of cavalry, artillery, and shells, which were sent by this Government to Messina at the time when the pacific proposals were sent to Palermo.

It is impossible to expect that the Government at present existing at Palermo, dependent as it is upon the support of the Chambers and the armed population, can come to an immediate decision without in some degree previously ascertaining the feelings of the people, and preparing the minds of their supporters for the acceptance of the proposals; and it must be left to your discretion to ascertain whether the delay on the part of the Government which may take place, arises from an endeavour to smooth the way for arriving at an arrangement, or from a desire to gain time in order to make preparations for the renewal of hostilities.

In the latter case it might be as well to give notice of the termination of the armistice, in order that the ten days may be secured to the Sicilians, and perhaps under any circumstances such notice might be useful in hastening their decision.

I do not know the nature of the promise which you made, but I suppose it was not to remain with your forces at Palermo after the offers had been rejected; but I conclude that it was not to prevent a ship of war being left there for the protection of British interests.

With respect to the assertion that all Sicily would have submitted without further bloodshed to the Neapolitan troops if no intervention had taken place, it is perfectly gratuitous; and the obstinate defence of Messina, which Prince Satriano pleaded as a justification for the destruction of so great a part of that town, would tend exactly to the contrary inference.

I hope we may hear soon from you how the negotiation stands.

I inclose a copy of a proposed note drawn up by M. de Rayneval in answer to that of Prince Satriano, and I shall answer him in the same sense.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

No. 404.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, April 2, 1849.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter dated the 21st March, from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, and of its inclosures, from which it appears that there is no longer any hope of a pacific arrangement between the Neapolitans and Sicilians on the terms offered by His Majesty King Ferdinand.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 404.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 21, 1849.

I REQUEST you will lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the accompanying copies of the correspondence* which has passed between the Sicilian Government and myself on the subject of our present mission to Palermo since my letters of the 15th instant.

I regret that we can no longer entertain any hope of a pacific arrangement on the terms offered by His Majesty King Ferdinand.

This opinion was communicated to Her Majesty's Minister at Naples on the 18th instant by the "*Ardent*," which touched here *en route* to convey Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Napier from Leghorn to Alexandria; and we are apprized that she arrived at Naples on the 19th instant.

Accounts from hence to the 13th had however been previously received there, *via* Messina, by which they had intelligence of the levy decreed on the 10th by the Sicilian Parliament, and other measures, which being considered decidedly hostile, had produced much excitement, particularly on the part of Prince Satriano, who was only prevented by an order from the King from proceeding on the instant to his command at Messina, to resume offensive operations. We conclude this course will be put in execution as soon as our despatches by the "*Ardent*," transmitting the replies of the Sicilian Government, have been perused.

Admiral Baudin and myself therefore deemed it expedient to apprise the Sicilian Government of the probable cessation of the armistice at the expiration of ten days from the 19th instant, the day when our communications reached Naples; and we have received from the Government here intimation that they shall hold themselves at liberty to resume hostilities on the morning of the 29th.

I send also the copy of a letter from Mr. Jeans, our Vice-Consul at Catania, and extracts of others from different parts of the island.

The printed papers adverted to in my despatch No. 80 have been circulated by the French steamer "*Ariel*" at the different Consulates, and the determination of an united people to resist Neapolitan sway was everywhere demonstrated. The enthusiasm displayed at Palermo is more prominently marked. The inhabitants were invited by handbill on the 15th to assemble outside the city to form intrenchments for its defence, since which the spot has been daily thronged with all classes of people voluntarily contributing their assistance to the formation of lines—ladies and gentlemen of the highest rank setting the example.

Admiral Baudin and myself propose to remain at Palermo until we have received answers to our communications from Mr. Temple and M. Rayneval, which I expect by the "*Bulldog*." We shall then probably return to Naples.

I propose to leave the "*Powerful*" and "*Odin*" here, and to place the "*Bulldog*" at Syracuse and Catania for the protection of the British residents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

* See Inclosures 11, 12, and 13 in No. 401; 2, 3, and 4 in No. 412.

Inclosure 2 in No. 404.

Vice-Consul Oates to Consul Goodwin.

(Extract.)

Girgenti, March 14, 1849.

I HAVE the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your few lines of the 10th instant, inclosing me a copy of the ultimatum received from Naples.

The people here of every class, old and young, will not hear of any "transazioni." War! war! is the cry, and they are only waiting for instructions from Palermo to put themselves in activity. It is true the statements in the papers are exaggerated, but I do not think the perusal of the original document will in any way calm the people.

If I see any reason to change my opinion when this document shall have arrived and been read, I will write you further on the subject.

Inclosure 4 in No. 404.

*Extract of Letter from Girgenti.**Girgenti, March 17, 1849.*

WE have just this moment had a sample of a popular outburst of sentiments and feelings. This afternoon a French steamer anchored in the roads, and at about 5 p.m. the commander came up to Girgenti to deliver a parcel containing the correspondence and decree or ultimatum of Ferdinand II. He had scarcely got into the French Vice-Consulate before the people got scent of him, and as he came out they surrounded him and accompanied him to the house of the British Vice-Consulate, where he came with a similar parcel of papers from Admiral Parker.

Thousands of people surrounded the British Vice-Consulate, shouting "Guerra, guerra all'esterminio coi Borboni!" and it was some time before a few words could be addressed to them, to show that the commander had only brought these papers as a formality, and not as a "proposizione di accomodamento." This last word has become hateful to them. Notwithstanding this show of feeling, no sooner were the people told the commander was or seemed anxious for his safety, than they immediately requested he would come out: they would accompany him in safety to the Mole.

He left the British Vice-Consulate, escorted by a number of the National guards and surrounded by a mob, which, though the most orderly, still did not refrain from stunning him with a continuation of "Guerra all'esterminio!" Such are the sentiments of all Sicily. War, and nothing but war, will be listened to by both old and young.

Inclosure 5 in No. 404.

Vice-Consul Jeans to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

Catania, March 17, 1849.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the 13th instant per "Independent," accompanying several copies of the proclamation of the King of Naples to the Sicilians and of the official correspondence on the subject, thanking you at the same time for the honour done me in forwarding them. These documents have been made generally known to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. Their publication and distribution have however rather increased than diminished the discontent that they caused in the first instance. So much is the case, that many of the most peaceably inclined who would have used their most strenuous efforts to persuade others, had the ultimatum been considered less unfavourable to Sicilian interests, are now foremost in their opposition to it. Whether the actual means of resistance and powers of endurance on the part of the Sicilians be equal to the emergency, is not for me to say. The upper classes refer to the Kingdom of Naples generally, as a picture of

what Sicily is likely to become, should the ultimatum be accepted. They contend that there is no guarantee whatever that its conditions would be respected; that the King has power, and would not be slow in using it, backed as he is by the strong arm of military authority, to dissolve their Parliament, and by creating an unlimited number of Peers, or by continually proroguing their Chambers, to render null and void all the constitutional privileges. They assert that this has been the case in the Kingdom of Naples, and may be so in Sicily. In fact it is not difficult, where there be the will, to bring forward many objectionable points, and to show from the experience of matters at Naples that the same causes may produce the same effect here.

The state of the Calabrias under a nominally Constitutional but really military Government, as depicted by General Pignatelli in the Chamber of Peers, is referred to by Sicilians as what may be the fate of Sicily under a Constitution not dissimilar to that of Naples; and as a contrast to this, they refer with pride to the pacific state of Catania under self-government. These are the arguments used, and not without some show of reason, for non-acceptance of the ultimatum. A latent hope still exists, however groundless, with many, that the same reasons which induced a suspension of hostilities in September may operate again, now that the struggle, if commenced, will be general and desperate. Superstition, or more properly speaking, ignorance, works on the feelings of the lower orders, who have never forgotten that the dreadful scourge of cholera followed the entrance of the Neapolitan troops into Catania after the attempt at revolution in 1837; and believing as they firmly do, that the cholera was the effect of poison, and produced by the Neapolitan troops there, they are not slow in expecting a return of the malady under the same circumstances, nor are there wanting those who encourage this morbid feeling by appealing to their fears on the subject. All classes unite in reprobating the preamble annulling all the acts of the Sicilians since January 1848, which it is evident must cause immense confusion and a complete revolution in all matters civil and judicial.

Such I believe to be the present feelings of the inhabitants of this neighbourhood; whether however they will support their opinion by an appeal to arms, or whether they may be able to support it efficiently I cannot say, nor can I learn that up to this time any instructions have been received from the Sicilian Government at Palermo on the subject.

I beg to return you my thanks on behalf of the British residents here for your kind promise of the protection of a ship of war in case of need, and to assure you that in case of hostilities I shall, as heretofore, use my utmost endeavours to preserve a strict neutrality, and to prevent anything like interference on the part of any British subjects within this Vice-Consulate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBT. JEANS.

Inclosure 6 in No. 404.

Consul Goodwin to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

(Extract.)

Palermo, March 19, 1849.

I HEAR that the people of Mistretta, the great farmers and graziers of Sicily, are going to raise a corps of yeomanry cavalry at their own expense and to support them during the war. The material is at hand in the shape of mounted guards.

No. 405.

Mr. Addington to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 5, 1849.

I HAVE laid before Viscount Palmerston your letter of the 2nd instant inclosing a copy of a further despatch from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, dated the 21st of March, reporting his proceedings at Palermo subsequent to

the 15th ultimo, and I am to request that you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Lord Palmerston is of opinion that Sir William Parker's conduct as reported in this despatch should be approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. U. ADDINGTON.

No. 406.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, April 6, 1849.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, the inclosed copy of a despatch from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean, respecting the rejection by the Sicilians of the terms of adjustment offered by King Ferdinand II.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure in No. 406.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 25, 1849.

MY despatch of 21st instant will convey to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the details of all the communications that have passed on the subject of our mission to Palermo up to that date, and will have apprized their Lordships of the hopelessness of any pacific arrangement between the Neapolitans and Sicilians.

The reports which I forwarded to Mr. Temple on the subject induced him to embark with M de Rayneval in the "Bulldog" at Naples on the 22nd instant, and on the following day he arrived at Palermo with the propositions of King Ferdinand put into a form which the Sicilian Ministers could not decline to receive and lay before their Parliament; the Plenipotentiaries had hopes also of being able to afford explanations on some points of doubtful construction, which had been unfavourably interpreted by the Sicilians.

Shortly after their arrival the weather became too bad for communicating with the shore, but the fact having been made known by the Pratique boats, it caused a great excitement in the town.

Their presence was duly announced by Admiral Baudin and myself on the following morning to the Sicilian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who laid the various documents before the Parliament the same evening. But the intimation of their contents to the Chambers was only answered by a universal cry of war! and the proposals were unanimously rejected.

Mr. Temple remained on board the "Hibernia" until late on the 24th; but no attempt has here been made by the Ministers to confer with him or M. de Rayneval in any way, on the subject of the King's terms of adjustment, and the population generally now profess themselves to be eager for war.

Their Lordships will receive herewith copies of all the communications that have passed since my last letter, as well as of a correspondence between Mr. Temple and myself, relative to a most unfounded assertion by Prince Satriano, that I had made a solemn promise to the King at Gaeta to leave Palermo with the squadron, in the event of the terms being rejected, which his Excellency assumes to have been virtually the case when a decree for a levy of additional troops was passed by the Parliament on 10th instant at Palermo.

The fact is that no promise of the kind was ever made, which can be proved by the testimony of Vice-Admiral Baudin, the chief of his staff, and my Flag-Lieutenant Phillimore, who were the only persons present at the interview, nor could the levy in question, under the circumstances in which it was

directed, be considered as a sufficient justification for our quitting Palermo while a hope remained of a pacific result.

Mr. Temple and M. de Rayneval will return to-morrow in the "Oberon" to Naples, and Admiral Baudin and myself propose to follow on the 27th, as we consider it advisable to depart before hostilities are renewed.

The "Powerful," "Odin," and "Bulldog" will remain under the arrangement proposed in the concluding paragraph of my despatch of the 21st ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

No. 407.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Addington.

Sir,

Admiralty, April 6, 1849.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith for the information of Viscount Palmerston, the copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean, with its inclosures, announcing the establishment of a blockade of the port of Palermo and adjacent places by Neapolitan forces.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 407.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 27, 1849.

I BEG to transmit herewith for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a letter which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Naples, inclosing communications from the Prince of Cariati announcing the establishment of the blockade of the port of Palermo and adjacent places, and that ships of war are appointed to watch the coast of Sicily, to prevent ammunition, arms, or any articles used in war, being introduced in any part of the island.

The Prince Cariati further requests that the British subjects trading or having interests in Sicily may be duly warned to place their persons and property in safety from the perils of war with the understanding that the Government of the King, after this notice, will not be responsible for the losses or damages that may be incurred by the renewal of hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 407.

The Hon. W. Temple to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

Palermo, March 25, 1849.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing to you copies and translations of the notes* which I have received this day from his Excellency Prince Cariati, His Sicilian Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, communicating to me that in consequence of the failure of the negotiations entered into for the purpose of endeavouring to effect a reconciliation between His Majesty and his Sicilian subjects, the Government of His Majesty has decided to establish a blockade of the port of Palermo and the places adjoining it, and to direct ships of war to cruise along the coast for the purpose of preventing the introduction of arms and military stores into the Island of Sicily.

* See Inclosures 1 and 2 in No. 414.

I consider it therefore my duty to make this communication of Prince Cariat's known to you in order that you may be enabled to take such measures as you may judge expedient under the circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TEMPLE.

No. 408.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 6.)

My Lord, Naples, March 28, 1849.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Goodwin, showing the feelings with which the Proclamation of the King was received throughout Sicily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure in No. 408.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir, Palermo, March 22, 1849.

ON the 15th instant a placard headed "Ci siamo," and calling on the people to complete the lines of defence, appeared on the walls. Every labourer was besought to turn out at daybreak with a spade and a basket, to bring bread and cheese in his pocket, and to repair to the Largo del Palazzo. An immense multitude assembled accordingly on the 16th, and proceeded with bands of music to the Fort Sacramento, about a mile and a half out of the town on the road to Bagaria, where they opened a trench broad and deep, which is destined to run from the sea to the mountains. The work was continued until sunset, and was renewed on the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th instant, on the first of which days the Chamber of Deputies took part in the labour. Noblemen and gentlemen, priests, lawyers, and physicians, monks and friars, mechanics and artisans, and ladies of the highest rank, took their share of the honourable task in the presence of the cardinal archbishop, bishops, prelates, and peers of the realm.

The work is still proceeding with unabated diligence, and bids fair to be speedily completed.

Yesterday appeared a stirring proclamation from Stabile, the new Minister of War, calling on the architects and civil engineers to come into active service, desiring the labourers to preserve the stones and trees met with in the "diggings," as materials of defence, and intreating the peasants to lend their carts and trucks for the conveyance of stones and earth. As soon as this trench and a pit for the powder magazine shall be completed, public industry will be turned to the north-west side, where a line of defence from Mindello Bay to Monte Pellegrino has already been traced.

Mr. Jeans writes from Catania on the 17th March: "Every one is so exasperated against the ultimatum, that there will be a resistance against the King's authority or any attempt to enforce it. Had the ultimatum been couched in more conciliatory terms, or had the terms themselves been less unsatisfactory, there would have been a very strong party in favour of a settlement. I have been surprised to find how many whom I know to have been favourable to arrangement, at almost any cost, are now loud against the ultimatum, and especially against the preamble, which annuls every law and enactment during the revolution."

Mr. Jeans writes further on the 19th:—"The abolition of all the acts of the Sicilian Government since 12th January, 1848, seems one of the points to which the inhabitants of this place object particularly. The Commander of the French steamer, which has just arrived, had an excellent opportunity of judging of the public feeling, for many of the printed copies were torn and others burnt before him, as I am told by many.

If Ferdinand retake Sicily, and begin punishing the Sicilians, he will hardly know where to begin and where to leave off. If, up to a few days ago, some might have been supposed to be favourable to him, that supposition has been done away with in the last four days, for now even the most timid inveigh strongly against the ultimatum."

Mr. Oates writes from Girgenti on the 19th March: "The French steamer 'Ariel' arrived here on the 17th, and two officers came up to town to deliver the despatches. They had hardly reached the French Vice-Consulate before they were surrounded by thousands who had discovered their mission, and brought to my house, amidst shouts of 'guerra! guerra! sterminio ai Borboni!' Having spoken with the officers, I was forced to take them on the balcony and explain to the people that their coming was a mere formality. They replied that they depended on the Governor of Palermo, would hear of no conditions, and were determined to make any sacrifice rather than give in to the Bourbons. The officers returned to the Mole accompanied by the mob, which continued to express its hatred toward the King; but they had no sooner left the town than the people dispersed and quiet and order were restored. During the evening I distributed the papers, but the whole of them were immediately destroyed amidst cries against the King.

"The announcement of the terms has caused a moral revolution among the few who from interest or feeling wished for the return of the King. They now hate Ferdinand more if possible than the liberals do; and all seem as indignant against the bearers of such proposals, as against the King of Naples himself. Every preparation is making to march out at the first call. Out of 600 National Guards, 150 have already volunteered general service, and another body of recruits for the army is in course of formation. At Naro about 500 men are now ready to march. The telegraph from Terranova states that all the decrees have been burnt by an infuriated mob."

Mr. Bull from Sicata writes on the 18th March: "I would have distributed the papers with pleasure, but as the whole population is exasperated, I have thought proper to keep the papers in my own possession.

Mr. Ingham writes from Marsala on the 20th March: "The documents are in general circulation, but I cannot say they have produced any favourable result for the King. Since the news received yesterday, the people have become more warlike than before, and many are preparing to march as volunteers to Palermo or elsewhere. In Mazzara they are for war.

At Nicosia, in the interior, 72,000 oz. have been offered to the Governor. At Caltagirone 3000 men armed and equipped, and at the small town of Alia, 600 men and 100 quarters of flour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GOODWIN.

No. 409.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 7, 1849.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches to that of the 28th of March inclusive.

I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings with reference to the negotiations for effecting a reconciliation between the King of Naples and the Sicilians, as reported in your despatches of the 6th and 7th of March.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 13.)

My Lord,

Naples, March 29, 1849.

IN accordance with what I had the honour of stating to your Lordship in my despatch of the 21st instant, M. de Rayneval and myself embarked on board of Her Majesty's steamer "Bulldog" on the 22nd instant and proceeded to Palermo, where we arrived on the following day, and during our stay there we remained on board the flag-ships of Sir William Parker and Admiral Baudin. To obviate the objections of Prince Butera, M. de Rayneval and myself decided upon altering the form in which the conditions of the proposed arrangement had been presented; and we accordingly drew up a joint memorandum, which was signed by us both, a copy of which, together with copies of the letters addressed by myself and M. de Rayneval to Admiral Sir William Parker and Admiral Baudin requesting them to present the memorandum to Prince Butera, are herewith inclosed.

The memorandum contains the same conditions as those which were previously proposed. The alterations were made in the proclamation which had caused so much dissatisfaction in Sicily. I inclose to your Lordship a printed copy of the proclamation, showing those alterations which had been agreed upon with Prince Satriano before we left Naples. Your Lordship will see that the address of the King to the Sicilians was suppressed, with the exception of the last paragraph which precedes the Articles, in which the King is mentioned in the third person, so that the conditions are not directly proposed by His Majesty, but are stated by us to be those which he would be disposed to concede upon an arrangement being effected.

Another alteration was made, limiting the annulment of the acts of the Sicilian Government to those which referred to political and military matters, allowing those which regard private interests and matters not political to remain in force.

Although the alterations in the form enabled Prince Butera to lay the conditions before the Parliament, the feelings of the Sicilians against them were so strong and unanimous that they were rejected by acclamation. Indeed it appears evident that nothing short of an arrangement which would secure to the Sicilians their Constitution of 1812 had any chance of being accepted by them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 410.

Memorandum.

Naples, le 20 Mars, 1849.

LES Gouvernemens de France et de la Grande Bretagne, animés du désir de voir se terminer par les moyens amiables le regrettable différend qui s'est élevé entre la Sicile et Naples, et de substituer la négociation aux fléaux de la guerre, ont approuvé la détermination prise le 11 Septembre dernier par MM. les Amiraux commandant les Escadres des deux nations, et par suite de laquelle les hostilités qui venaient d'éclater à Messine ont été suspendues. En même temps, les deux Gouvernemens ayant principalement en vue d'assurer entre les deux contrées cette intime union qu'exige à la fois leur intérêt commun et l'intérêt de l'Europe, ont chargé les Soussignés, Représentans des deux Puissances près Sa Majesté le Roi Ferdinand II, d'interposer leurs bons offices pour amener la réconciliation des deux parties et la fonder sur des bases durables.

Les Soussignés n'ont rien négligé pour atteindre ce but; Sa Majesté le Roi Ferdinand n'ayant jamais cessé aux yeux de leurs Gouvernemens respectifs d'être le Souverain légitime de la nation Sicilienne, les Soussignés ont fait appel à sa haute sagesse, et l'ont prié de leur faire connaître les termes de la

réconciliation qu'il s'agissait d'opérer. Ces termes, dans lesquels les Soussignés se sont efforcés de faire prévaloir les véritables et légitimes intérêts de la Sicile, sont les suivans :

1. La Sicile fera partie intégrante de l'unité du Royaume des Deux Siciles.

2. Il y aura pour la Sicile, comme Monarchie Constitutionnelle, des institutions politiques et un Parlement séparé. Le Roi, en cas d'absence, se fera représenter par un Vice-Roi, muni d'attributions et de pouvoirs déterminés par Sa Majesté.

3. L'administration intérieure de la Sicile sera entièrement séparée. Tous les emplois civils seront exclusivement confiés à des Siciliens.

4. Le Budget de la Sicile sera entièrement séparé.

Les dépenses communes aux deux contrées seront réparties suivant la proportion du nombre de leurs habitans, au lieu seront fixées à trois millions de ducats par an.

Les dépenses extraordinaires qu'ont occasionnées au trésor Napolitain les événemens de 1848 et 1849 seront fixées à 1,500,000 ducats, chiffre fort inférieur à leur montant réel.

Cette somme, unie à celle dont le trésor de Sicile est débiteur envers le trésor Napolitain, formera une dette générale de la Sicile, qui sera acquittée au moyen d'une émission de rentes avec amortissement correspondant. Les 56 Articles joints au présent mémoire donneront le détail des conditions ci-dessus énoncées.

5. Il y aura amnistie pleine et entière pour tous les actes politiques qui ont eu lieu depuis le commencement de l'année 1848.

6. Sa Majesté, outre les points actuellement occupés par les troupes, tiendra garnison à Syracuse, Trapani, et dans le fort de Catane.

Quant à la seule ville de Palerme, le maintien de l'ordre y restera confié à la Garde Nationale. Dans le cas où la Garde Nationale ne suffirait pas à protéger les personnes, les propriétés, à faire respecter les lois et les autorités préposées à leur exécution, elle sera dissoute, et Sa Majesté la remplacera par une garnison militaire.

Ces conditions, qui ne sont valables qu'autant qu'elles seront acceptées sans retard, sont tout ce que les efforts réunis de la France et de l'Angleterre ont pu obtenir de plus favorable. Les Soussignés n'ont pas l'espoir d'obtenir de nouvelles modifications, et par conséquent doivent considérer ces conditions comme un ultimatum.

Les Soussignés, désireux de contribuer à assurer à une contrée si favorisée sous tant de rapports, les bienfaits d'une administration nationale et les franchises constitutionnelles qui peuvent ouvrir à la Sicile une ère de liberté et de prospérité, désireux surtout de lui éviter les horreurs de la guerre et les chances fatales qui pourraient en être la conséquence, ont prié MM. les Amiraux Baudin et Parker, qui ont donné un si éclatant témoignage de l'intérêt que leur impose la cause Sicilienne, de porter à Palerme les termes de réconciliation ci-dessus énoncés, et d'employer tous leurs efforts pour faire comprendre aux Siciliens leurs véritables intérêts, pour les amener à assurer le bonheur de leur pays et à lui épargner les sanglantes catastrophes qui en cas de refus le menaceraient ce jour malheureusement prochain, où les hostilités éclateraient de nouveau, sans qu'il fût possible aux deux Puissances d'y mettre obstacle.

(Signé) W. TEMPLE. A. DE RAYNEVAL.

(Translation.)

Naples, March 20, 1849.

THE Governments of France and of Great Britain, animated by the wish to see concluded by friendly means the lamentable difference which has arisen between Sicily and Naples, and to substitute negotiation in place of the calamities of war, have approved the determination come to on the 11th of September last by the Admirals commanding the squadrons of the two nations, in consequence of which the hostilities which had lately broken out at Messina have been suspended. At the same time the two Governments having principally in view to secure between the two countries that intimate union which is required at once by their own common interest and by the interest of Europe, have instructed the Undersigned, the Representatives of these two Powers at the Court of His

Majesty King Ferdinand II, to interpose their good offices in order to bring about the reconciliation of the two parties, and to establish it on lasting foundations.

The Undersigned have neglected nothing to attain this end; His Majesty King Ferdinand having never ceased in the eyes of their respective Governments to be the legitimate Sovereign of the Sicilian nation, the Undersigned have appealed to his wisdom, and have prayed him to make known to them the terms of the reconciliation which it was proposed to accomplish. Those terms in which the Undersigned have laboured to cause the true and legitimate interests of Sicily to be taken into account, are as follows:

1. Sicily shall form an integral part of the unity of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

2. There shall be for Sicily, as a constitutional monarchy, political institutions and a separate parliament. The King, in case of absence, shall cause himself to be represented by a Viceroy possessed of functions and powers fixed by His Majesty.

3. The internal administration of Sicily shall be entirely separate. All civil employments shall be exclusively intrusted to Sicilians.

4. The Sicilian budget shall be entirely separate.

The common expenses of the two countries shall be divided in the proportion of the number of their inhabitants, or else shall be fixed at three millions of ducats a-year.

The extraordinary expenses to which the Neapolitan Treasury has been put by the events of 1848 and 1849 shall be fixed at 1,500,000 ducats, a sum much less than the real amount.

That sum added to that for which the Sicilian Treasury is indebted to the Neapolitan Treasury shall constitute a general debt on the part of Sicily, which shall be paid off by a creation of stock with a corresponding sinking fund. The 56 Articles annexed to the present memorandum will furnish the details of the conditions above laid down.

5. There shall be a full and entire amnesty for all the political acts which have taken place since the beginning of the year 1848.

6. His Majesty, in addition to the places actually occupied by the troops, shall maintain a garrison in Syracuse, Trapani, and in the fortress of Catania.

As far as the city of Palermo alone is concerned, the maintenance of order there shall continue to be intrusted to the National Guard. In case the National Guard should not be sufficient to protect persons and property, and to cause the laws and the authorities appointed to execute those laws to be respected, it will be dissolved, and His Majesty will replace it by a military garrison.

These conditions, which are not available unless they shall be accepted without delay, are the most favourable that the joint efforts of France and of England have been able to obtain. The Undersigned have no hope that they can obtain fresh modifications, and consequently it is their duty to consider these conditions as an ultimatum.

The Undersigned, wishing to contribute towards securing to a country so favoured in every respect the benefits of a national administration and constitutional privileges which can open to Sicily an era of liberty and of prosperity, wishing above all to avoid the horrors of war and the fatal consequences which might be its result, have requested Admirals Baudin and Parker, who have given such indisputable proofs of the interest felt by them in the Sicilian cause, to carry to Palermo the terms of reconciliation above set forth, and to use every effort to make their true interests known to the Sicilians, and to induce them to secure the happiness of their country, and to spare it the bloody catastrophes with which in case of refusal it would be threatened on that day, unfortunately too near at hand, in which hostilities might recommence without its being possible for the two Powers to prevent them.

(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

A. DE RAYNAL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 410.

The Hon. W. Temple to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Sir,

Palermo, March 23, 1849.

I HAVE received the letter which you did me the honour of addressing to me on the 18th of this month, transmitting to me a note from Prince Butera of the 17th instant, stating that the proposals for an arrangement could not be presented to the Parliament in their present form, but that the Sicilian Government would consider it to be their duty to submit to Parliament any proposals which should emanate directly from the two Powers.

It is not easy for me to understand the precise and practical meaning of this observation, since the conditions of the arrangement which were presented by the British and French Admirals had been confided to them by the Plenipotentiaries of the two Powers. Nevertheless M. de Rayneval and myself have felt anxious to give to these proposals a different form, which appears to us to be of a nature to remove the objections which they have hitherto encountered. The inclosed memorandum, which sets forth the conditions agreed to by His Majesty, is conjointly signed by M. de Rayneval and myself, and I request you therefore to have the goodness to transmit it to Prince Butera, in order that he may thus be enabled to submit to the Parliament the conditions of an arrangement which it has been the object of our endeavour to effect.

Being desirous of affording you every assistance which might aid you in treating this important affair, M. de Rayneval and myself have decided to join you and Admiral Baudin, and possibly our presence and the explanations which we may be able to offer may tend to convince the Sicilians of the anxious desire which is felt by our two Governments that they may be induced to adopt conciliatory measures, and to appreciate the undoubted advantages which they will derive from accepting the honourable and pacific arrangement which we propose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 410.

M. de Rayneval to Vice-Admiral Baudin.

M. l'Amiral,

Palermo, 23 Mars, 1849.

J'AI reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser sous la date du 18 de ce mois, et à laquelle j'ai trouvé jointe en copie une note de M. le Prince de Butera en date du 17, annonçant que dans leur forme actuelle les propositions d'accommodement ne sauraient être présentées au Parlement, mais que le Gouvernement Sicilien regarderait comme un devoir de soumettre au Parlement toute proposition qui émanerait directement des deux Puissances.

Il m'est difficile de saisir le sens exact et pratique de cette observation, puisque, comme vous l'avez déjà fait remarquer au Prince de Butera, les conditions d'accommodement ont été présentées par l'intermédiaire des Plénipotentiaires des deux Puissances et par les Amiraux commandant leurs flottes. Néanmoins nous nous sommes empressés, Mr. Temple et moi, de donner à ces propositions une forme nouvelle qui nous a paru de nature à faire disparaître les objections qu'elles ont jusqu'ici rencontrées. Le mémoire ci-joint, agréé par Mr. Temple et par moi, résume les conditions consenties par Sa Majesté. Si vous jugiez utile dans la situation actuelle des choses, de transmettre ce mémoire au Prince de Butera, je vous prierais de vouloir bien lui en faire l'envoi afin qu'il soit en demeure de transmettre au Parlement les conditions d'arrangement qui est le but de tous nos efforts.

Pour être à même de vous prêter dans cette difficile affaire tout l'appui qui peut dépendre de nous, nous avons décidé, Mr. Temple et moi, de nous rendre près de vous et près de M. l'Amiral Parker. Notre présence et les explications que nous pourrions donner contribueront peut-être à convaincre

les Siciliens du vif désir des deux Puissances de les voir entrer dans la voie de la réconciliation, et se convaincre des avantages indubitables que leur vaudrait l'arrangement honorable que nous sommes venus leur offrir.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) A. DE RAYNEVAL.

(Translation.)

Admiral,

Palermo, March 23, 1848.

I HAVE received the letter which you did me the honour to address to me under date the 18th instant, and to which I found added a copy of a note from the Prince de Butera, dated the 17th, announcing that in their actual form the propositions for arrangement could not be presented to Parliament, but that the Sicilian Government would consider it a duty to submit to Parliament any proposition which emanated directly from the two Powers.

It is difficult for me to understand the exact and practical meaning of that observation, because, as you have already pointed out to the Prince de Butera, the conditions of arrangement have been presented by the instrumentality of the Plenipotentiaries of the two Powers and by the Admirals in command of their fleets. Nevertheless, Mr. Temple and I have hastened to give to those propositions a new form which has seemed to us of a nature to cause the objections which it has hitherto met with to disappear. The annexed memorandum agreed upon by Mr. Temple and myself, sums up the conditions consented to by His Majesty. If you should consider it useful in the present state of affairs to forward this memorandum to the Prince de Butera, I would request you to send it to him, in order that he may be in a position to transmit to the Parliament the conditions of the arrangement which is the object of all our efforts.

In order to be able to give you in this difficult affair all the assistance which depends upon us, Mr. Temple and I have determined to join you and Admiral Parker. Our presence, and the explanations which we might be able to give, may perhaps contribute towards convincing the Sicilians of the lively desire of the two Governments to see them adopt a system of reconciliation, and be convinced of the undoubted advantages which the honourable arrangement which we are come to offer to them, would afford them.

Receive, &c.

(Signed) A. DE RAYNEVAL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 410.

Alterations in the Conditions proposed to the Sicilians.

Introduction omitted.

DOPO mature riflessioni ed accurata analisi de' bisogni e de' voti che possono con equità utilmente e praticamente soddisfarsi, ritenendo come non avvenuti e nulli di dritto e di fatto tutti gli atti governativi, sì politici che militari, i quali hanno avuto luogo in Sicilia dal 12 Gennajo, 1848, in poi, Sua Maestà il Rè Ferdinando II si è dichiarato pronto a concedere alla stessa uno Statuto di cui è base la Costituzione del 1812, salvo le modificazioni richieste dalle mutate condizioni, e dalla vigente legislazione.

Cotesto Statuto, che il Rè si riserva di formulare ampiamente prima della fine di Giugno del corrente anno, conterrà nella parte sostanziale le seguenti disposizioni:

[Here follow the Articles of the Proclamation. The paragraph following the Articles is omitted, and also the King's signature.]

(Translation.)

AFTER mature reflection and an accurate analysis of the wants and wishes which may with equity be usefully and practically satisfied, considering all the acts of Government, both political and military, which have taken place in Sicily from January 12, 1848, up to the present time, not to have taken place,

and to be null by law and in fact, His Majesty King Ferdinand II has declared himself ready to concede to that island a Statute, of which the Constitution of 1812 is the basis, subject to the modifications required by the altered condition of things and by the system of legislation now in force.

This Statute, which the King reserves to himself to develop amply before the end of June of the current year, will contain in substance the following dispositions.

No. 411.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 13.)

My Lord,

Naples, April 1, 1849.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship two despatches from Mr. Consul Goodwin of the 16th and 17th of March respectively, the one containing observations on the conditions offered to the Sicilians, and the other descriptive of the impression which the publication of those conditions produced at Catania and other provincial towns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 411.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Palermo, March 16, 1849.

DIRECTED by your despatch of 4th March to afford Admiral Parker every information, I have laid before him the following remarks on the *Gueta Proclamation* of 28th February, 1849.

"The 3rd paragraph of the preamble contains the following clause:

"*Ritenendo come non avvenute e nulle di dritto e di fatto, tutti gli atti i quali hanno avuto luogo in Sicilia dal 12 Gennaio, 1848, in poi.*"

"Waving the question whether this clause does or does not nullify the Government and the Parliament, I beg to observe that it does away with many acts of Parliament about the utility of which all parties are agreed. Such are the abolition of the grinding tax and the reduction of the land tax; judicious measures which have been wisely copied by the King's authorities at Messina.

"The 2nd Article, which provides that no man shall be arrested and tried except in cases provided for by law, says nothing about the sanctity of home. Any agent of power may therefore enter a house, without a warrant, to make a domiciliary visit as heretofore.

"The 4th Article, which gives the rights of printing and publishing, says nothing about the censorship of the press, or the revision of foreign publications, two intolerable fetters on liberty of thought and soundness of learning. The 24th and 25th Articles, which say that the administration of justice and all other administrations shall be regulated by the laws in force with certain reserves, and that all territorial divisions and competent jurisdictions shall remain unaltered for the present, imply the restoration of the police, secret as well as public, and the intendencies, expensive institutions which the last fifteen months, during which they have not existed, have proved to be unnecessary.

"The 37th Article which says that the direct taxes shall be voted annually by the Chambers, says also that the indirect may be voted for many years. The Minister therefore who may be content to give up the land tax or direct tax which brings 538,393oz. per annum, may do without a Parliament for many years together: because the miscellaneous or indirect taxes, which bring in 1,670,916, will be sufficient to cover the unavoidable expenses of Government. The 45th Article, which says that the Peers shall be named by the King, does away with the ancient rights of thirteen Lords spiritual and forty-nine Lords temporal

* Considering all the acts which have taken place in Sicily from the 12th of January, 1848, up to the present time, to be null and of no effect.

which have been secured to them, both by the Constitution of 1812 and by the Statute of 1848 in so far as respects the present Peers.

"The 53rd Article fixes the qualification of an elector at 180*z* per annum in towns and districts and at 50*z*. at Palermo, and sets the qualification of a representative at 300*z*. for a district, 500 for Palermo, and 150*z*. for other towns. These rates may have been moderate enough in 1812 when wheat was at 12*l*. 6*d*. a quarter, but they are much too high now when wheat has come down to 4*l*. 4*d*. being a fall of two-thirds."

To these objections the Admiral has replied, that as you do not think it possible to obtain any further modifications, these conditions must be received as an ultimatum. Desirous to further the object of the mission, I have suggested to the Admiral that the word "dinastici" should be inserted after the word "atti" in the obnoxious clause of the preamble. The King's honour would thus be saved, while the people's interest was consulted. Out of 515 Acts passed during the present session between the 26th March and 31st December, there are but two, viz. the decrees of the 13th April and the 11th July, which touch the dynastic question. All the others, save thirty military and naval ordinances, are public or private bills. This clause has been more objected to than any of the Articles. Ministers have not hitherto laid the ultimatum before the Chambers, but its tenor has transpired and has caused great excitement. All classes of people seem disposed to regret the ultimatum unless it be modified, and the greater part seem resolved to reject it altogether. Six or eight thousand persons of all ranks regarding the war as inevitable, have marched through the streets this morning with hoe, hammer, and basket on their shoulders, and proceeded to work at the trenches in the approaches to the city. On the 9th a motion made in the Commons by the ex-Minister Raeli, to invite all unmarried men from eighteen to thirty to take up arms and to levy by conscription every sixth male in a thousand, was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Jeans, to whom the ultimatum was communicated, writes as follows on the 10th instant: "As for the proclamation itself, it contains the basis of a good constitution, but what guarantee have the Sicilians for the good faith of the King, who, exasperated against them, may not be long in finding a pretext for curtailing some of their privileges. One of the reasons which make me believe that the ultimatum will be accepted is that the general wish is for something like certainty. Nothing can be more satisfactory than the state of this place has been for some time past. There have been no outrages, not even a pocket picked. The only doubt is how long will this last? This and the prospect of a certain quantum of constitutional government, rather than the uncertainty of what an appeal to arms might produce, will make many willing to accept the terms." On the 12th, Mr. Jeans writes thus: "The exact terms of the ultimatum have not transpired here: how the proclamation will be received I cannot say, as no one seems really to know what the terms are. People are decidedly in favour of a settlement, and anxious to do that which Great Britain may advise: how far they may think, on seeing the ultimatum, that the terms are too favourable to the King I cannot form an opinion. His power to convoke, prorogue, or dissolve the Chambers is a virtual power to abrogate the Constitution whenever he pleases, backed as he will be by a Neapolitan army. The annual payment of three millions of ducats for the '*stato d'assedio*,' and 500,000 ounces for the war, are points which have been openly criticised and spoken against."

Mr. Vice-Consul Ingham, at Marsala, writes thus on the 13th March: "I have read the proclamation attentively, and I think that the Sicilians ought to accept it without hesitation, provided their constitution is guaranteed to them by France and England, but without such guarantee it is much to be feared that they would be again sacrificed. And what would be worse to us residents is, that the Sicilians would consider the English had abandoned them a second time. I have not had time to learn the sentiments of the leading people here with regard to the terms, but shall no doubt be able to give you information by next post. I am told they are about levying soldiers in this town for the defence of the country."

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 411.

Consul Goodwin to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Palermo, March 17, 1849.

MR. JEANS writes as follows under date of March 14:—

"Since writing you on the 12th instant, several copies of the proclamation dated Gaeta, February 28, have been received here from Messina.

"The document in question has consequently become a general topic of conversation and discussion. There seems to be but one opinion on it, viz., that if it be the real ultimatum it is perfectly inadmissible. Even those among the Catanese who seemed most anxious for a speedy settlement of the question and who would have sacrificed much towards the attainment of so desirable an end, cannot but express their discontent at it. They argue, that even were the King of Naples to enter Sicily as a conqueror he could not grant terms more unfavourable to the Sicilians, and that by quietly accepting such a basis of constitution they virtually give up rights they at present lay claim to. The preamble of the document in question, annulling *de jure et de facto* all the Acts passed since the 12th of January 1848, would cause in itself incalculable mischief, by completely upsetting the whole groundwork of society during that period. In fact disposed as the inhabitants of this part of Sicily decidedly were and are to an arrangement calculated to produce a permanent settlement of affairs, I cannot but fear that if the arrangement have for bases no more favourable terms than the Proclamation of February 28, 1848, it will not be accepted, or if accepted that it would only be considered as a temporary measure. I feel however very considerable difficulty in hazarding an opinion either as to the acceptance of the ultimatum, or as to its contenting the Sicilians if accepted, until I know exactly what are the conditions, for I cannot reconcile the contents of your letter of the 8th instant, which mentions the garrisoning of Trapani, Catania, and Syracuse with Neapolitan troops and Palermo with the National Guard, with the proclamation then sent me, which seems to infer the occupation of the whole of Sicily by a Neapolitan army. Private letters from Naples mention also the facts above alluded to. The opinion here seems to be generally that the Proclamation of February 28 will be accompanied by several modifications which shall materially change its spirit. Probably in issuing such a document, which to an impartial observer bears the impress of a spirit far from favourable to Sicily, the King of Naples flatters himself that he had a strong party in Sicily and that the publication of it would be the signal for a return to his allegiance; but I am decidedly of opinion that no such party really exists; that if the terms he accepted it will be from a desire to have matters settled on a broad basis and from an anxiety to accept terms proposed by Great Britain, and not in any way from a wish to return to Neapolitan rule, or from any feeling of regard to the Neapolitan dynasty. I continue of opinion that the occupation of Sicily by Neapolitan troops will be the fertile source of present discontent and future outbreak."

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN GOODWIN.

No. 412.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 13.)

My Lord,

Naples, April 1, 1849.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing to your Lordship, copies of two despatches which I have received from Vice Admiral Sir William Parker, inclosing the correspondence which took place with the Sicilian Government on the subject of the conditions offered by His Sicilian Majesty for bringing about an amicable settlement of the differences between His Majesty and his Sicilian subjects.

Your Lordship will perceive that the united efforts of Sir William Parker and Vice-Admiral Baudin, to induce the Sicilian Government to accept the proposals of His Sicilian Majesty have proved abortive, and that, under these circumstances, the Admirals deemed it expedient to announce the termination

of the armistice, and to withdraw immediately with their respective squadrons from Palermo, leaving only such ships as were absolutely necessary for the protection of property and security of the English and French residents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 412.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

"*Hibernia*," Palermo, March 21, 1849.

I HAD the honour to receive yesterday, by the French steamer "*Caton*," your despatch of the 19th instant, and from the information she brought, I trust that soon after her departure, your Excellency and M. de Rayneval would receive by the "*Ardent*," the communications of Vice-Admiral Baudin and myself from Palermo.

I flatter myself that they will have proved to your Excellency that there has been no want of assiduity on our part to obtain an answer as early as possible on the subject of the mission which brought us hither.

Our despatches were forwarded to Naples the moment we could obtain a definite answer on the subject of our communications to the Sicilian Government with reasonable time for them to deliberate on the important matter presented for their consideration.

Your Excellency has rightly conjectured that the decree of the 10th for the levy of six unmarried men, between the ages of eighteen and thirty, in every thousand, though of a warlike tendency, could not be taken as a rejection of the terms offered by His Sicilian Majesty, because we were not only assured that the act itself had been framed as far back as September last, but the Government justly claimed the rights of meeting with corresponding measures of defence, the exertions which were at that very time making for reinforcing the Royal troops at Messina for the purpose of Sicilian subjugation, should the acceptance of the terms proffered by His Majesty be deemed impossible.

It is however with great surprise and feelings approaching to indignation, that I read the assertions contained in Prince Satriano's note to your Excellency, wherein he states that I had made a solemn promise to the King, that I would leave Palermo in case His Majesty's concessions were not accepted by the Sicilians.

His Excellency further observes in another part of his note, that "the general levy of men was decreed on the 10th, and until the 18th your Excellency had not given any intimation that the Naval forces of France and England had abandoned Sicily to her own resources," concluding by requesting that your Excellency would communicate to him any information of which you might be in possession, as to the fulfilment of the promise made by the Admirals at Gaeta before their departure.

I beg most unequivocally to repel the whole of the Prince's observations above quoted.

As I feel confident that the King never could have made assertions to the effect stated by the Prince Satriano, his Excellency must have been strangely misled by some person who was ignorant of what passed in His Majesty's presence, and I now most solemnly declare that no promise of the nature averred by Prince Satriano was ever made directly or indirectly by myself, or to my belief by Admiral Baudin; on the contrary, it was always my intention to leave at least one ship of the line and a large steam-vessel at Palermo, as also some of Her Majesty's ships or vessels of war at other ports in Sicily, for the protection of the British residents, in the unfortunate event of hostilities being renewed.

I did certainly express to the King my hope that Vice-Admiral Baudin and myself might have the gratification of conveying to him a satisfactory result of our mission, but not a word was said on the subject of my departure from Palermo, although I contemplated doing so if a pacification could not be effected.

The inclosed copies of letters between Admiral Baudin and myself, which can be corroborated if necessary by the testimony of Captain Maissin and Lieu-

tenant Phillimore, will prove to your Excellency the accuracy of the statement which I now make.

I derive much satisfaction that we have anticipated your Excellency's suggestions in giving notice to the Sicilian Government of the termination of the armistice at the expiration of ten days, and have now the honour to transmit for your information, copies of the notes which have been interchanged on this subject since my despatch of the 18th instant, and I may be permitted to express a hope that your Excellency will adopt every measure within your power to prevent any hostile act on the part of the Neapolitans before the 29th, that the Sicilians may have no just cause to complain of any breach of the intimation made to them to this effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 412.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Prince Butera.

Excellency, "Hibernia," Palermo, March 19, 1849.

THE Undersigned has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's notes of the 16th and 17th instant.

Nothing now remains but to transmit them as expeditiously as possible with the despatches of Admiral Baudin for the information of the British and French Ministers at the Court of Naples.

As the Undersigned has not been encouraged in any of the communications received from your Excellency to expect a pacific result to the mission which he has undertaken in conjunction with Vice-Admiral Baudin, it is possible that His Majesty the King of Naples may, on becoming acquainted with what has passed, consider the terms he has offered as virtually rejected, and the Neapolitan forces may consequently be ordered to renew hostilities.

The Undersigned hopes that no measures of this kind will be resorted to before answers are received to the communications now sent to Naples, but he thinks it advisable that the Sicilian Government should be prepared for the termination of the armistice at the expiration of ten days from the date hereof.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) WM. PARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 412.

Prince Butera to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Eccellenza, Palermo, 20 Marzo, 1849.

IL Sottoscritto si onora accusarle ricezione della nota di vostra Eccellenza, data del 19 corrente, e d'altra nota di sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, data del 18 corrente, responsive alle ultime due note del Sottoscritto del 16 e 17 di questo mese.

Il Sottoscritto ringrazia l'Eccellenza vostra di avergli voluto dar notizia che altro non rimane che trasmettere al più presto possibile ad una ai dispaaci dell' Ammiraglio Baudin, le note dell' Sottoscritto per l'informazione dei Ministri Inglese e Francese all Corte di Napoli.

Quanto poi all' eperazioni di vostra Eccellenza riguardo al senso possibile in che il Rè di Napoli vorrà o potrà interpretare quello che il Sottoscritto ha già avuto l'onore di scrivere a vostra Eccellenza e a sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, il Sottoscritto è nell' obbligo di fare osservare a vostra Eccellenza che egli non si è fin oggi diretto che a vostra Eccellenza e a sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin nella loro qualità rispettiva di organi ufficiali dei Ministri delle due Grandi Potenze mediatrici alla Corte di Napoli, e che perciò non si appartiene per nulla a questo Governo l'investigare in che modo possansi interpretare da tutt' altri che dai Ministri Inglese e Francese in Napoli, le note che il Sottoscritto ha dirette agli Ammiragli d'Inghilterra e di Francia.

Però quanto alla parte della nota sudetta dove vostra Eccellenza ha la bontà di esprimere la speranza che il Rè di Napoli non vorrà reprendre le ostilità pria che ricevano risposte alle comunicazioni trasmesse a Napoli, ma che al tempo stesso vostra Eccellenza stima opportuno che questo Governo sia preparato pel fine dell' armistizio sullo spirare di dieci giorni, contando dal 19 Marzo, data della nota sudetta di vostra Eccellenza, il Sottoscritto ha l'onore di dichiararle nella più ampia forma, che dietro di avere ricevuto la nota sudetta di vostra Eccellenza, questo Governo considera già come denunciato l'armistizio fin dal giorno 19 corrente, e che nel modo stesso come, a tenore della nota sudetta di vostra Eccellenza il Rè di Napoli può ripigliare le ostilità allo spirar di quel termine, questo Governo è nel pieno dritto di poterle ripigliare anch' esso all' alba del dì 22 Marzo corrente, riserbandosi a rendere di pubblica ragione la giustizia e la legalità del suo procedere.

Il Sottoscritto in ultimo si onora informare vostra Eccellenza che in questo stesso giorno egli va a depositare presso le due camere legislative la corrispondenza che il Sottoscritto ha ricambiata tanto con vostra Eccellenza quanto con sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, a datare del 10 corrente Marzo a tutt' oggi, e ciò perchè il Parlamento si abbia la debita notizia della denunciazione del armistizio e della cessazione della stesso che ricade all' alba del dì 22 Marzo corrente.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Firmato)

PRINCE DI BUTERA.

(Translation.)

Palermo, March 20, 1849.

THE Undersigned has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 19th instant, and of another note from his Excellency Admiral Baudin of the 17th instant, in answer to the two last notes from the Undersigned of the 16th and 17th of this month.

The Undersigned thanks your Excellency for having informed him that nothing more remains to be done but to transmit the notes of the Undersigned, together with the despatches from Admiral Baudin, as soon as possible, for the information of the English and French Ministers at the Court of Naples.

Then, as for the observations of your Excellency respecting the possible sense in which the King of Naples may be willing or able to interpret that which the Undersigned has already had the honour of writing to your Excellency and to Admiral Baudin, the Undersigned is under the necessity of making your Excellency observe that he has never, up to the present time, addressed himself but to your Excellency and to Admiral Baudin in your respective capacities of official organs of the Ministers of the two great mediating Powers at the Court of Naples, and that therefore it does not in any way appertain to this Government to investigate in what manner the notes which the Undersigned has addressed to the Admirals of England and France may be interpreted by any others than by the Ministers of England and France at Naples.

However, with regard to that part of the said note in which your Excellency has the kindness to express the hope that the King of Naples will not resume hostilities before answers to the communications which have been transmitted to Naples shall have been received, but that at the same time your Excellency thinks that it would be well for this Government to be prepared for the end of the armistice at the expiration of ten days counting from the 19th March, the date of the above-mentioned note from your Excellency, the Undersigned has the honour of declaring in the most ample form, that after having received the note of your Excellency, this Government already considers the armistice as denounced from the 19th instant, and that in the same way as according to the tenor of the above-mentioned note of your Excellency, the King of Naples may resume hostilities at the expiration of that term, this Government has also the full right to resume them on the morning of the 29th, reserving to itself to render to the world an account of the justice and legality of its conduct.

The Undersigned in conclusion has the honour of informing your Excellency that he will this day lay before the two Legislative Chambers the correspondence which the Undersigned has exchanged as well with your Excellency as with Admiral Baudin, dating from the 10th of March up to the whole of this

day, and he does so in order that the Parliament may have due notice of the denunciation of the armistice and of the cessation of the same which will take place on the 29th of the current month of March.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) PRINCE OF BUTERA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 412.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Prince Butera.

Excellency,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 21, 1849.

THE Undersigned has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Excellency the Prince of Butera's note of yesterday relative to the denunciation and cessation of the armistice on the 29th instant, of which he will not fail to transmit a copy to Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Naples by a vessel which is expected to proceed there to-morrow or by the earliest opportunity.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 412.

Prince Butera to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Eccellenza,

Palermo, 21 Marzo, 1849.

IL Sottoscritto ha avuto l'onore di ricevere la nota di vostra Eccellenza data di oggi stesso 21 corrente, ed altra nota di pari data di sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, responsive alla nota del Sottoscritto del dì 20 corrente Marzo.

Il Sottoscritto ringrazia l'Eccellenza vostra della bontà che ha avuto di informarlo che vostra Eccellenza non mancherà di trasmettere al Ministro di Sua Maestà Britannica a Napoli, per un bastimento che potrà partire domani, o per la prima opportunità, la nota del Sottoscritto data di jeri 20 corrente.

Il Sottoscritto stima intanto suo dovere far conoscere a vostra Eccellenza che sotto questa medesima data ha parimenti risposta alla nota di sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin data di oggi 21 Marzo corrente, e profitta, &c.

(Firmato) PRINCIPE DI BUTERA.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Palermo, March 21, 1849.

THE Undersigned has had the honour to receive your Excellency's note of this day's date, the 21st, and another note of the same date from his Excellency Admiral Baudin, in answer to the note of the Undersigned of the 20th of March.

The Undersigned thanks your Excellency for your kindness in informing him that your Excellency will not fail to transmit to Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Naples by a vessel that may start to-morrow, or by the first opportunity, the note of the Undersigned of yesterday's date.

The Undersigned thinks it his duty at the same time to inform your Excellency that under the same date he has sent a similar answer to the note of his Excellency Admiral Baudin of this day's date, 21st March, and avails, &c.

(Signed) PRINCE BUTERA.

Inclosure 6 in No. 412.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Vice-Admiral Baudin.

My dear Admiral,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 21, 1849.

ACCEPT my thanks for your letter just received regarding the late mission of the "Ariel."

I now send by Lieutenant Phillimore, for your perusal, the despatch which I yesterday received from Mr. Temple, and Prince Satriano's note to him.

There seems to me to be a want of courtesy in the latter, amounting almost to rudeness, and he makes assertions of my having promised the King to leave Palermo with the British naval forces, and that Sicily should be abandoned to her own resources, in case the King's concessions should not be accepted.

I will not now comment on Prince Satriano's fallacious conclusion that the concessions were refused by the decree for the levy to which he alludes, but I must repudiate the assertion that I ever made any solemn promise to the King of the nature to which he adverts. I could not have done so, because I always intended to leave the "Powerful" here for the protection of the British residents in the event of the renewal of hostilities; in fact I brought her here mainly for that purpose, and thiock I explained this to you.

I certainly desired Lieutenant Phillimore, in our interview with the King, to state to His Majesty "my hopes that we should soon be able to bring him the account of a pacific result to our mission;" but my memory does not charge me with having directly or indirectly made any promise of the nature asserted by the Prince Satriano, although it certainly never was my intention to remain at Palermo personally (or to leave either the "Hibernia" or "Queen" here), unless our mission was settled satisfactorily.

As the statement made by Prince Satriano must, if correct, have occurred in the presence of yourself and Captain Maissin, will you do me the favour to inform me if any observation of mine on the occasion of our last visit to the King at Gaeta, could warrant the averments in Prince Satriano's letter.

I wish to be strengthened by your joint testimony before I reply officially to Mr. Temple's letter.

Phillimore will also convey for your perusal the note which I last evening received from Prince Butera, and my answer, which I have made as short as possible.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) W. PARKER.

Inclosure 7 in No. 412.

Vice-Admiral Baudin to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Mon cher Sir William,

"Friedland," 21 Mars, 1849.

JE vous remercie de la communication des divers documens que le Lieutenant Phillimore vient de m'apporter de votre part, et je vois avec plaisir que Mr. Temple et M. de Rayneval se soient parfaitement entendus au sujet de la réponse à faire à la note peu convenable du Prince de Satriano.

Comme vous, j'ai été choqué des assertions du Prince relativement à des promesses que vous et moi aurions faites au Roi Ferdinand la dernière fois que nous avons eu l'honneur de le voir à Gaète.

Nous n'avons certes pris, ni l'un ni l'autre, envers Sa Majesté, d'autres engagements que d'employer tous nos efforts pour amener les Siciliens à accepter la réconciliation qu'elle leur offre. Ma mémoire ne me fournit rien de plus à ce sujet; mais si elle était en défaut, et la vôtre aussi, il n'est nullement probable que le Capitaine Maissin et le Lieutenant Phillimore, qui tous deux assistaient à notre entrevue avec le Roi, et qui immédiatement après ont chacun de son côté rédigé par écrit notre conversation, aient omis une circonstance de cette importance.

Au reste, en relisant la lettre du Prince de Satriano à M. de Rayneval, je vois que le Prince dit que nous avions promis de quitter Palermo dans le cas où les conditions offertes par le Roi ne seraient point accueillies (nel caso di non accoglienza delle sovane concessione). Nous ne différons donc guère que sur ce point, que le Prince considère le décret de levée en masse comme équivalent à un refus d'accepter ces conditions, tandis que vous et moi avons jugé convenable d'attendre, comme la raison le voulait, qu'elles fussent formellement rejetées.

J'écris dans ce sens à M. de Rayneval.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) CH. BAUDIN.

(Translation.)

My dear Sir William,

"Friedland," March 21, 1849.

I THANK you for the communication of the different documents which Lieutenant Phillimore has just brought me from you, and I see with pleasure that Mr. Temple and M. de Rayneval have come to a perfect understanding on the subject of the answer to be returned to the improper note of the Prince de Satriano.

Like you, I was shocked at the assertion made by the Prince respecting the promises which you and I made to King Ferdinand the last time we had the honour to see him at Gaeta.

Neither of us certainly made any other engagement to His Majesty except to employ all our efforts to persuade the Sicilians to accept the reconciliation which he offers them. My memory supplies nothing further on this subject; but if it were at fault, and yours also, it is by no means likely that Captain Maissin and Lieutenant Phillimore, who were both present at our interview with the King, and who immediately afterwards each separately wrote an account of our conversation, should have omitted a circumstance of such importance.

Moreover, reading over a second time the letter from Prince Satriano to M. de Rayneval, I see that the Prince says that we had promised to quit Palermo in case the conditions offered by the King were not agreed to (*nel caso di non accoglienza delle sovrane concessione*). We therefore only differ on this point, that the Prince considers the decree for a *levée en masse* to be equivalent to a refusal to accept the conditions, whilst you and I have thought fit to wait, as reason required, for their formal rejection. I write in this sense to M. de Rayneval.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) CH. BAUDIN.

Inclosure 8 in No. 412.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to Consul Goodwin.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 25, 1849.

THE proposed terms for adjustment of the Sicilian differences were transmitted yesterday morning by Vice-Admiral Baudin and myself in an altered form to the Sicilian Government, by whom they were the same afternoon laid before the Parliament and unanimously rejected.

Due notice has been given to the belligerents that the armistice will terminate on the morning of the 29th instant, when the renewal of hostilities may be expected.

I therefore request you will apprise the respective British Consular authorities in this island thereof, and as a strict neutrality will be observed by Great Britain in the contest between the Neapolitans and Sicilians, I cannot but express my hope that the British residents will as heretofore abstain from any interference which may compromise their position as neutrals, should the course of events hereafter render reclamations necessary to either of the contending parties for injuries received.

One of Her Majesty's steam-vessels will shortly be sent for the protection of British interests at the ports of Augusta, Catania, and Syracuse.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WM. PARKER.

Inclosure 9 in No. 412.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 25, 1849.

ON the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 23rd instant I lost no time in transmitting a copy of it to Prince Butera, with the memorandum conjointly signed by yourself and M. de Rayneval, setting forth the conditions

agreed to by His Majesty King Ferdinand for arranging the differences with Sicily.

I have now the honour of inclosing to your Excellency a letter which I last night received from the Sicilian Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing me that the proposed terms had been laid before the Parliament and were unanimously rejected.

I have therefore deemed it expedient to apprise Her Majesty's Consul at Palermo of this result, that he may make the necessary communication to the British Consular authorities in Sicily of the termination of the armistice on the morning of the 29th instant.

I inclose herewith for your information copies of my letter of the 23rd to the Prince Butera, in forwarding the propositions intimated by your Excellency and M. de Rayneval, as also of my communications to Mr. Consul Goodwin and Commander Foote of the "Rosamond," to announce the probable renewal of hostilities between the belligerents, and enjoin observance of strict neutrality on the part of Her Majesty's subjects in the approaching contest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. PARKER.

Inclosure 10 in No. 412.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Prince Butera.

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 23, 1849.

THE Undersigned has the honour to announce to his Excellency the Prince Butera the arrival at Palermo of their Excellencies the Ministers of Great Britain and France at the Court of Naples, and to inclose the copy of a letter which he has just received from the Hon. William Temple, transmitting the proposed terms for restoring peace to Sicily in a form which it is hoped will remove the objections stated in Prince Butera's note of the 16th instant, to their being laid before the Sicilian Parliament.

The Undersigned avails himself of this occasion to express his earnest desire that the consideration of these proposals, with such explanations as the two Plenipotentiaries may be able to afford on any points of doubtful construction, may lead to a pacific result, and renews the assurance of his high consideration.

(Signed) WM. PARKER.

Inclosure 11 in No. 412.

Prince Butera to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker.

Eccellenza,

Palermo, 24 Marzo, 1849.

IL Sottoscritto ha avuto l'onore di ricevere oggi stesso la nota di vostra Eccellenza data di jeri 23 Marzo corrente, e l'acclusa copia di lettera di sua Eccellenza Mr. William Temple, Ministro, &c., data di Palermo il 23 Marzo corrente, e diretta all' Eccellenza vostra come parimente si onora il Sottoscritto avere colla nota suddetta ricevuto ultra simile nota e sotto la data medesima da sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, accompagnata da copia di lettera di sua Eccellenza M. A. de Rayneval, &c., data pure di Palermo il 23 Marzo corrente, e diretta a sua Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Baudin, e unitamente ai documenti suddetti una memoria originale data di Napoli il dì 20 Marzo corrente, e sottoscritta dalle loro Eccellenze Mr. William Temple e M. A. de Rayneval, alla quale è annessa copia conforme certificata, sotto la data di Napoli 20 Marzo, 1849, dalle loro Eccellenze Mr. William Temple e M. A. de Rayneval, di alcuni "Articoli contenenti le condizioni dell' accomodamento amichevole della Quistione Siciliana pe' buoni uffici della Francia e della Gran Bretagna."

Il Sottoscritto, siccome ha avuto l'onore di dichiarare ripetutamente a vostra Eccellenza nelle sue noti antecedenti, non ha messo tempo in mezzo, ed oggi stesso, appena ricevuti i documenti suddetti, si è affrettato di presentarli alle due Camere del Parlamento Generale di Sicilia, le quali, interpreti del voto

universalmente espresso dalla intera Sicilia, hanno entrambi sotto la data di oggi 24 Marzo, 1849, deliberato alla unanimità e per acclamazione di rifiutarsi il proposto ultimatum, e di riprendersi le ostilità allo spirare del termine dell' armistizio già denunziato.

Il Sottoscritto prega vostra Eccellenza di pigliar atto della enunciata deliberazione del Parlamento Generale di Sicilia, e di farla al tempo stesso conoscere alle loro Eccellenze i Ministri della Gran Bretagna e della Repubblica Francese accreditati alla Corte di Napoli.

Il Sottoscritto, &c.

(Firmato) PRINCIPE DI BUTERA.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Palermo, March 24, 1849.

THE Undersigned has had the honour to receive this day your Excellency's note of yesterday's date, March 23rd, as well as the inclosed copy of a letter from his Excellency Mr. Temple, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Britannic Majesty at the Court of Naples, dated from Palermo, 23rd March, and addressed to your Excellency, as also the Undersigned, together with the above-mentioned note, is honoured with the receipt of a similar note under the same date from his Excellency Admiral Baudin, accompanied by the copy of a letter from his Excellency M. de Rayneval, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Republic at the Court of Naples, dated also from Palermo, 23rd March, and directed to his Excellency Admiral Baudin; and together with the above-mentioned documents an original incuorandum, dated Naples, 20th March, and signed by their Excellencies Mr. Temple and M. de Rayneval, to which is annexed a copy, dated Naples, 20th March, and certified by their Excellencies Mr. Temple and M. de Rayneval, of certain Articles containing the conditions of the friendly arrangement of the Sicilian Question through the good offices of France and Great Britain.

The Undersigned, as he has had the honour to declare to your Excellency repeatedly in his preceding notes, has not lost any time, and on this very day, as soon as the above-mentioned documents had been received, he hastened to present them to the two Chambers of the General Parliament of Sicily, which being the interpreters of the wish generally expressed by the whole of Sicily, have both in their sitting of this day, March 24, 1849, unanimously declared by acclamation that the proposed ultimatum should be rejected and that hostilities shall be resumed at the expiration of the term of the armistice which has been already denounced.

The Undersigned begs your Excellency to take cognizance of the vote which the General Parliament of Sicily has pronounced, and to make it known at the same time to their Excellencies the Ministers of Great Britain and the French Republic accredited to the Court of Naples.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) PRINCE OF BUTERA.

Inclosure 12 in No. 412.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker to Commander Foote.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Palermo, March 25, 1849.

THE various documents conveyed for your perusal by Acting Lieutenant Burnaby as well as those sent by the French steam-vessel "Ariel," will have informed you of the unfavourable reception of the terms of pacification offered by King Ferdinand II to the Sicilians.

Their Excellencies the Ministers of Great Britain and France accredited to the Court of Naples arrived at Palermo in the "Bulldog" on the 23rd instant, for the purpose of rendering any explanations in their power on points of doubtful construction in the proposed terms of adjustment between the Neapolitans and the Sicilians, which were yesterday morning transmitted in an altered form

by Vice-Admiral Baudin and myself to the Government at Palermo, by whom they were laid before the Sicilian Parliament the same evening and unanimously rejected, due notice having been previously given to both parties that in the event of rejection, the armistice would terminate on the morning of the 29th instant.

I now apprise you therefore that hostilities may be expected to recommence on that day.

You will not therefore after that date interfere in any way between the belligerents, but, observing a strict international neutrality, your attention should be solely directed to the protection of the persons and property of British residents, who are enjoined to abstain from any interference in the differences between the Neapolitans and Sicilians.

The prominent feelings of humanity will however doubtless prompt the exercise of any act by which without compromising your position as a neutral, you can in any way mitigate the severities of war.

You will communicate the contents of this letter to Her Majesty's Consul at Messina. With regard to the reception and entertainment of refugees on either side, you will be governed by my general memorandum of the 7th December, 1848.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WM. PARKER.

No. 413.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 13.)

My Lord,

Naples, April 2, 1849.

UPON my return from Sicily I addressed a note to Prince Satriano, communicating to him the final result of the endeavours of the Representatives of the mediating Powers to induce the Sicilian Government to accept the terms offered by His Sicilian Majesty, a copy of which is herewith inclosed, together with a copy of a note which I addressed to Prince Cariati, requesting him to take charge of the note to Prince Satriano, his Excellency having left Naples for Messina.

A similar note was addressed to Prince Satriano by M. de Rayneval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 413.

The Hon. W. Temple to Prince Cariati.

Prince,

Naples, March 30, 1849.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing to your Excellency the copy of a note which I have addressed to Prince Satriano, communicating to him that the Sicilians had rejected the conditions of an arrangement which Admiral Sir William Parker and Admiral Baudin had undertaken to carry to Palermo; and understanding that Prince Satriano has left Naples, I request your Excellency to have the kindness to take charge of it for his Excellency.

Deeply regretting that our efforts to obtain a pacific solution of the Sicilian Question have not been attended with a more successful result,

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 413.

The Hon. W. Temple to Prince Satriano.

Prince,

Naples, March 30, 1849.

IT is with feelings of the deepest regret that I have to inform your Excellency that notwithstanding all the efforts of the British and French Admirals, of M. de Rayneval and myself, the conditions for an arrangement which we had undertaken to convey to Palermo were rejected on the 24th instant by the Sicilians unanimously and by acclamation.

We employed ourselves on the 25th in endeavouring to prevail upon the Sicilian Ministers to reconsider their determination and to make them sensible of the great dangers which menaced Sicily, but we were unable to obtain any favourable result and the Sicilians will recommence hostilities on the day which had already been fixed upon.

The maintenance of the Constitution of 1812 modified as far as relates to the person of the King appeared to us to be the only basis of arrangement which could have led to a pacific solution of the question.

We left Palermo on the 26th instant and we proceeded to Gaeta with the intention of communicating to the King the result of our efforts, which unfortunately have proved fruitless. Not having found His Majesty there, we came on to Naples, and on our arrival our first care is to make this communication to your Excellency.

At this moment when hostilities, which we have done all in our power to prevent, are about to recommence, I feel it a duty which however I doubt not your Excellency will consider almost superfluous, earnestly to request your Excellency to recommend to the troops under your command to observe the respect which by the laws of nations is due to Consular residences and to any vessels which may be hired for the purpose of affording refuge and protection to the lives and properties of foreigners, and which are under the flag of their respective nations, recommending more especially to your Excellency that of Great Britain.

With respect to the Sicilians whom an excessive love of independence has driven to expose themselves to such serious dangers, your Excellency will I trust allow me to recommend them to your generous and humane consideration. As the great object is to reunite two people whose separation has arisen from feelings of reciprocal animosity which cannot be too much deplored, the fewer the evils are that the war entails, the better will its object be accomplished.

The British and French Admirals were to quit Palermo on the 27th instant.

It was the intention of Admiral Sir William Parker to leave such ships only on the coast of Sicily as would be absolutely necessary for the protection of British subjects and their property, with instructions to their commanders to maintain the strictest neutrality between the conflicting parties.

In the note addressed to me by your Excellency on the 18th instant, you appear to have been under the impression that the Admirals had made a formal promise to the King during their interview with His Majesty at Gaeta that they would quit Palermo immediately on the rejection by the Sicilians of the proposals which they were charged to convey to Palermo; I find however that this impression must have arisen from some misapprehension, as Sir William Parker has assured me that neither he nor Admiral Baudin nor the two officers who were present on the occasion have the slightest recollection of any such promise having been made. Sir William Parker certainly expressed his hope to the King that he and Admiral Baudin might return shortly to announce to His Majesty the successful termination of their mission; and although no promise to that effect was made, it was their intention to leave Palermo as soon as they had ascertained that no further chance existed of their proposals being accepted by the Sicilians.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

The Hon. W. Temple to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 13.)

My Lord,

Naples, April 3, 1849.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing to your Lordship copies and translations of two notes addressed to me by Prince Cariatì on the 22nd ultimo, which were forwarded to me at Palermo. The one announcing that in consequence of the rejection of the terms offered to the Sicilians, the King's Government have determined to place the port and gulf of Palermo in a state of blockade from the beginning of April, and that in the meantime ships of war will watch the coasts, in order to prevent the introduction of warlike stores into the island; the other requesting me to warn the British residents of the renewal of hostilities, in order that they may take measures for the preservation of their lives and properties, as the Government does not intend, after this notice, to hold itself responsible for any losses that may be incurred by them.

These notes having been communicated to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker and the British residents, I have been requested by them to obtain from Prince Cariatì more precise information as to the nature of the blockade; and I have the honour to inclose copies of the letters which I received from the Admiral and Mr. Turner upon the subject, likewise of the note which I addressed to Prince Cariatì, transmitting them to his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. TEMPLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 414.

Prince Cariatì to the Hon. W. Temple.

Napoli, 22 Marzo, 1849.

IL Governo di Sua Maestà il Re, in conformità delle benigne intenzioni della Maestà Sua, ha costantemente preferito la via della conciliazione a quella della forza, per sedare la rivoluzione in Sicilia e ristabilirvi l'ordine e la tranquillità, ed in conseguenza le più generose concessioni compatibili colla integrità del reame e la dignità della Corona, sono state a più riprese offerte da parte del Re à suoi sudditi di oltre Faro.

A tale magnanimità essendo stato da' rivoltosi corrisposto con continui e sempre crescenti atti di ribellione, a far cessare uno stato cotanto disastroso per gl' interessi del reame tutto, il Governo del Re dovette sottoporsi alla dura necessità di fare occupare colle armi la città di Messina, per procedere quindi alla sottomissione del rimanente dell' isola.

Eseguita tale operazione con pieno successo, mercè il valore e la fedeltà delle Reali truppe, nasceva la speranza che i Siciliani potessero infine prestare ascolto a pacifiche proposizioni, convincendosi che la longanimità del Re procedeva non da mancanza di mezzi per sottomettersi, ma sibbene dal costante e vivo desiderio del suo cuore di evitare la effusione del sangue, e le sempre luttuose conseguenze delle fazioni di guerra.

Fatalmente, tale lusinga essendo ora del tutto svanita, e rimasta senza risultamento ogni tentativo di pacifico accomodamento, il diffidare ulteriormente le operazioni, che sole nel momento attuale possono porre un termine a sì fatto disastrosissimo stato di cose, farebbe ricadere una immensa responsabilità sopra il Real Governo.

Per ispingere con successo tali operazioni essendo indispensabile lo impedire che nuovi approvvigionamenti giungano dall' estero di artiglierie, di armi, e di attrezzi e munizioni da guerra in Sicilia, il Governo del Re, usando dello incontestabile diritto inerente ad ogni Sovrano, quello cioè, di opporsi a tutto Potere a che i proprii sudditi rimangano in permanente stato di rivolta e di resistenza alla sua autorità, ha disposto che da primi giorni del prossimo venturo mese di Aprile il porto ed il golfo di Palermo e sue adiacenze siano messi in istato di blocco, e che intanto delle eroiere de' legni da guerra della Real Marina vigilino sulle coste della Sicilia, a che munizioni, armi, ed ogni oggetto inser-viente alla guerra non sieno introdotti in alcun punto dell' isola.

Il Sottoscritto, Ministro, &c., nel farsi un dovere di ciò comunicare a sua Eccellenza il Cavaliere Temple, &c., perchè voglia renderne informato il suo Governo, e farlo giungere a notizia de' commercianti e comandanti de' bastimenti suoi connazionali, profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PRINCIPE DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, March 29, 1849.

THE Government of His Majesty the King, in conformity with the benign intentions of His Majesty, has constantly preferred measures of conciliation to those of force for the purpose of calming the revolution in Sicily and re-establishing there order and tranquillity, and in consequence the most generous concessions compatible with the integrity of the kingdom and the dignity of the Crown, have been repeatedly offered by the King to his subjects beyond the Faro.

To such magnanimity the party who are in revolt having answered by continued and ever increasing acts of rebellion, in order to put an end to a state of things so injurious to the interests of the whole kingdom, the King's Government was placed under the painful necessity of causing the military occupation of the city of Messina, from whence it might afterwards proceed to the subjection of the rest of the island.

This operation having been executed with complete success through the valour and fidelity of the royal troops, the hope arose that the Sicilians would at last listen to pacific proposals, having convinced themselves that the long forbearance of the King arose not from want of means to force them into submission, but rather from the constant and lively desire of his heart to avoid the effusion of blood and the ever-disastrous consequences of party warfare.

Unhappily this false hope has been entirely dissipated, and as every attempt to arrive at a pacific arrangement has failed, the postponement of those operations, which alone can put an end to such a disastrous state of things, would cause an immense responsibility to fall upon the Royal Government. In order successfully to carry out these operations, as it is indispensable to prevent the introduction of fresh supplies of artillery, arms, stores, and ammunition into Sicily from abroad, the King's Government, in the exercise of the incontestible right inherent in every Sovereign, namely, of opposing with all his power the continuance of his own subjects in a permanent state of revolt and resistance against his authority, has determined that from the first days of the month of April next, the Port and Gulf of Palermo and the adjacent coasts shall be placed in a state of blockade, and that in the meantime cruisers of war of the Royal Navy shall watch over the coasts of Sicily, in order that ammunition, arms, or any articles which may be used in war be not introduced into any part of the island.

The Undersigned, &c., in communicating the above as in duty bound to his Excellency Mr. Temple, &c., that he may lay it before his Government, and inform the British merchants and commanders of ships, avails himself, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE CARIATI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 414.

Prince Cariati to the Hon. W. Temple.

Napoli, 22 Marzo, 1849.

IL Sottoscritto, Ministro, &c., in continuazione della nota di questa istessa data con la quale a avuto l'onore di parteciparle la necessità del Real Governo di porre in istato di blocco la città di Palermo e sue adiacenze, a pure l'onore di prevenire sua Eccellenza il Signor Cavaliere Temple, &c., eh' essendo riuscite infruttuose le pratiche di conciliazione tentate da' due Ammiragli Inglese e Francesi co' rivoltosi Siciliani, le ostilità vanno a ricominciare. E perciò pregata l'Eccellenza vostra di prevenire nel modo più solenne ed autentico, i suoi connazionali, profitta, &c.

zionali commercianti, o aventi causa in Sicilia, di porre in salvo i loro beni e le loro persone, dagli imminenti pericoli della lotta, che sarà presto ripresa con la Sicilia, nella intelligenza che il Governo del Re, dopo questa prevenzione, non intende entrare mallevadore de' danni ed interessi che potranno soffrire in conseguenza delle ricominciate ostilità.

Profitta, &c.

(Firmato)

PE. DI CARIATI.

(Translation.)

Naples, March 22, 1849.

THE Undersigned, &c., in continuation of his note of this day's date, by which he had the honour to make known to you the necessity which obliges the King's Government to place in a state of blockade the city of Palermo and its adjacent coast, has also the honour to inform his Excellency Mr. Temple, &c. that as the negotiations for reconciliation with the Sicilian insurgents undertaken by the English and French Admirals have proved fruitless, hostilities are about to recommence. Therefore your Excellency is requested to warn in the most solemn and authentic manner, your countrymen who may be traders or have interests in Sicily, to place their properties and persons in safety from the perils of the struggle which will shortly be renewed in Sicily, it being understood that the Government of the King, after this notice, will not hold itself responsible for the losses and damages which they may incur in consequence of the renewed hostilities.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PRINCE OF CARIATI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 414.

Vice Admiral Sir W. Parker to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

"Hibernia," Naples, March 31, 1849.

WITH reference to your Excellency's letter of the 25th instant, transmitting a copy of Prince Cariati's note communicating that the Government of His Sicilian Majesty "has determined that from the first days of April next, the port and gulf of Palermo and the adjacent coasts, shall be placed in a state of blockade, and that in the meantime cruizers of war of the Royal Navy shall watch over the coasts of Sicily, in order that ammunition, arms, or any articles which may be used in war, be not introduced into any part of the island;" I am brought to the conclusion that this blockade is not meant to prohibit the free ingress and egress of Her Britannic Majesty's ships of war to every port on the coast of Sicily,—for as your Excellency is aware, it is necessary to station Her Majesty's ships at different points, under the observance of a strict neutrality, to afford protection to the persons and property of British subjects, and frequent communications must consequently be had with the ships so stationed, to furnish them with the stores and provisions requisite for the execution of their duties.

I am also led to hope that the blockade is not intended to have further operation than the prevention of fresh supplies of artillery, arms, stores and ammunition arriving in Sicily from abroad. I request information on these points that every legal measure may be adopted for the due protection of British interests, and that precise intimation may be forwarded with the least possible delay to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

WM. PARKER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 414.

Mr. Turner to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Naples, March 31, 1849.

ON the 29th instant, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul favoured us with the perusal of Prince Cariati's despatches to your Excellency dated 22nd and 23rd instant, relative to the blockade of Palermo and adjacenze, and to the order for

cruisers of the Royal Neapolitan Navy to guard the coast of Sicily, so as to prevent the introduction of ammunition, arms, and all articles of war into any port of the island, to take effect the beginning of April. This notice is so extremely short, that we beg to ascertain from your Excellency what we are to do with our vessels chartered in England and other places now on their way out to Sicily for their cargoes? Those destined to Palermo we presume will not be admitted. Those for the coast we presume will only be subject to search, and then allowed to take in cargo; but we request the favour of your obtaining specific information from this Government upon the subject for our guidance and that of other English merchants similarly situated.

We understand the Representative of the Government of the United States of America has remonstrated with this Government against the shortness of notice of the blockade in question, with the view no doubt of claiming indemnity for losses to the American merchants by being thus taken by surprise, and we trust the English will not be greater sufferers than other nations by this unfortunate position of affairs.

We have, &c.
(Signed) WM. J. TURNER & CO.

Inclosure 5 in No. 414.

The Hon. W. Temple to Prince Cariatì.

Prince,

Naples, March 31, 1849.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Excellency's notes of the 22nd instant which were forwarded to me to Palermo, announcing to me that the Government of His Sicilian Majesty had determined that from the first days of April next, the port and gulf of Palermo and the adjacent coast should be placed in a state of blockade, and that in the meantime cruisers of war of the Royal Navy shall watch over the coasts of Sicily to prevent the introduction of warlike stores into the island.

Having communicated the information contained in these notes to Admiral Sir William Parker and also to the British Consuls in Palermo and at Naples, I have been requested by the Admiral and by the British merchants to ascertain from your Excellency more precisely the nature of the intended blockade, and I inclose to your Excellency copies of the letters which I have received upon the subject from Sir William Parker and Mr. Turner.

The obligation of providing for the security of British subjects and their property renders the presence of some British ships of war on the coast of Sicily absolutely necessary, but they will have the strictest orders to preserve the most perfect neutrality, and to take care not to place themselves in any position which might impede the military operations which may be carried on.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) WM. TEMPLE.

No. 415.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 16, 1849.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 29th of March, respecting the altered form in which M. de Rayneval and yourself had determined to submit to the Sicilian Government the conditions offered to the Sicilians by the King of Naples, the Sicilian Government having objected to lay before the Parliament of that island the conditions in the form in which they were first presented to them by the Admirals.

I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve of your proceedings in this respect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 416.

Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. W. Temple.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 16, 1849.

I HAVE to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the note which you addressed to Prince Satriano on the 3rd of March, and of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch of the 2nd instant, announcing to his Excellency that the Sicilians had rejected the conditions offered to them on the part of the King of Naples.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

Costituzione del Regno di Sicilia proposta dal Generale Straordinario Parlamento nel 1812, sanzionata con due Reali Diplomi de' 9 Febbraio e 25 Maggio, 1823.

Base della Nuova Costituzione.

CONVOCATOSI da Sua Altezza Reale il Principe Ereditario, qual Vicar General coll' *Alter Ego*, straordinario General Parlamento con real dispaccio del primo Maggio del 1812, per provvedersi dal medesimo non solo ai bisogni dello Stato, ma ancora alla correzione degli abusi, al miglioramento delle leggi, ed a tutto ciò che interessar potesse alla vera felicità di questo fedelissimo regno; ed essendosi il medesimo collegialmente riunito, stabilì le basi di una nuova Costituzione, che sotto li 25 del mese di Luglio dell' anno medesimo furono dallo stesso indirizzate al Trono. Autorizzato intanto il Principe Reale dall' Augusto suo Genitore per foglio del dì primo di Agosto seguente transuntato ed esecutoriato dal Protosnotaro del Regno li 10 dello stesso mese, aderendo alle proposte del Parlamento, ed in conseguenza al voto della nazione, ha munito della real sanzione:

I. Che la religione dovrà essere unicamente, ad esclusione di qualunque altra, la Cattolica Apostolica Romana, e che il Re sarà obbligato professare la medesima religione; e quante volte ne professerà un' altra, sarà ipso facto decaduto dal Trono.

II. Che il potere legislativo risiederà privatamente nel solo Parlamento. Le leggi avranno vigore, quando saranno da Sua Maestà sanzionate. Tutte le sue imposizioni di qualunque natura dovranno imporsi solamente dal Parlamento, ed anche avere la sovrana sanzione. La formola sarà *Veto*, o *Placeat*, dovendosi accettare o rifiutare dal Re senza modificazione.

III. Che il potere esecutivo risiederà nella persona del Re.

IV. Che il potere giudiziario sarà distinto ed indipendente dal potere esecutivo e legislativo, e si eserciterà da un corpo di giudici e magistrati. Questi saranno giudicati, puniti e privati d'impiego per sentenza della Camera dei Pari, dopo l'istanza della Camera dei Comuni, come meglio rilevasi dalla Costituzione d'Inghilterra, e più estesamente se ne parlerà nell' articolo *Magistrature*.

V. Che la persona del Re sarà sacra ed inviolabile.

VI. Che i Ministri del Re ed impiegati saranno soggetti all' esame, e sindacatura del Parlamento, e saranno dal medesimo accusati, processati, e condannati, qualora si troveranno colpevoli contro la Costituzione e l'osservanza delle leggi, o per qualche grave colpa nell' esercizio della loro carica.

VII. Che il Parlamento sarà composto di due Camere, una detta dei Comuni, o sia dei rappresentanti delle popolazioni tanto Demaniali che Baronali, con quelle condizioni e forme che stabilirà il Parlamento ne' suoi posteriori dettagli su questo articolo: l'altra chiamata de' Pari, la quale sarà composta da tutti quegli ecclesiastici e loro successori, e da tutti quei Baroni e loro successori e possessori delle attuali Parie che attualmente hanno dritto di sedere, e votare nei due bracci ecclesiastico, e militare, e da altri, che in seguito potranno essere eletti da Sua Maestà giusta quelle condizioni e limitazioni che il Parlamento fisserà nell' articolo di dettaglio su questa materia.

VIII. Che i Baroni avranno, come Pari, testaticamente un voto solo, togliendosi la molteplicità attualmente relativa al numero delle loro popolazioni. Il Protosnotaro del Regno presenterà una nota degli attuali Baroni ed ecclesiastici, e sarà questa inserita negli atti Parlamentari.

IX. Che sarà privativa del Re il convocare, prorogare, e sciogliere il Parlamento, secondo le forme ed istituzioni che si stabiliranno in appresso. Sua Maestà però sarà tenuta di convocarlo in ogni anno.

X. Che alcun Siciliano non potrà essere arrestato, esiliato, o in altro modo punito, o turbato nel possesso e godimento de' dritti e dei suoi beni, se non se in forza delle leggi di un nuovo codice che sarà stabilito da questo Parlamento, e per via di ordini e di sentenze de' magistrati ordinarj, ed in quella forma, e con quei provvedimenti di pubblica sicurezza, che diviserà in appresso il Parlamento medesimo. I Pari godranno della forma dei giudizj medesimi che godono in Inghilterra, come meglio si diviserà dettagliatamente in appresso.

XI. Che non vi saranno più feudi, e tutte le terre si possederanno in Sicilia come in allodj, conservando però nelle rispettive famiglie l'ordine di successione che attualmente si gode. Cesseranno ancora le giurisdizioni Baronali, e quindi i Baroni saranno esenti da tutti i pesi, a cui finora sono stati soggetti per tali dritti feudali. Si aboliranno le Investiture, Rilevj, devoluzioni al Fisco, ed ogni altro peso inerente ai feudi, conservando però ogni famiglia i titoli, e le onorificenze.

XII. Finalmente, che ogni proposizione relativa a sussidj debba nascere privatamente e conchiudersi nella riferita Camera dei Comuni, ed indi passarsi in quella dei Pari, dove solo si dovrà assentire o dissentire senza punto alterarsi; e che tutte le proposte riguardanti gli articoli di legislazione e di qualunque altra materia, saranno promiscuamente, avanzate dalle due Camere, restando all'altra il dritto di ripulsa.

L'anzidetta real sanzione fu sotto il 10 Agosto, 1812, per via del Segretario di Stato ed Azienda comunicata al Parlamento, il quale si applicò in seguito a sviluppare e stabilire gli articoli di dettaglio della nuova Costituzione come meglio si rileva dall' Atto Parlamentario stipolato alla presenza di Sua Altezza Reale il giorno 7 Novembre del detto anno dal Protonotario di questo regno.

TITOLO I.

POTERE LEGISLATIVO.

CAPITOLO I.

§ 1. Il potere di far le leggi, e quello di dispensarle, interpretarle, modificarle, ed abrogarle risiederà esclusivamente nel Parlamento. Ogni atto legislativo però avrà forza di legge e sarà obbligatorio tosto che avrà la sanzione del Re.

Placet.

§ 2. Il Re si compiacerà rispondere ai Decreti del Parlamento, prima che resti sciolto o prorogato; colla formola del *Placet* o *Veto*, e senza apportarvi alterazione o modificazione veruna, come si degnò sanzionare con real dispaccio de' 10 di Agosto, 1812.

Placet;

Intendendosi che questo stabilimento debba principiare dal Parlamento del 1813 in poi, menochè riguardo le nuove leggi de' nuovi codici, quali come parte integrale della presente Costituzione, dovranno essere considerate come tante differenti proposte, e però talune potranno essere sanzionate, ed altre rigettate.

§ 3. Ogni legge dovrà inserirsi nei registri del regno, ed il Segretario di Stato del ripartimento sarà tenuto di farne arrivare a nome del Re la copia in istampa a tutti i magistrati e pubblici funzionarj per la esecuzione.

Placet;

Con che resti inerente nella Corona il diritto di proclamarle, ed al bisogno richiamarle in osservanza, ed inculcarne la esecuzione con degli editti.

§ 4. Al solo Parlamento apparterrà non meno il dritto di far leggi, che quello ancora della erezione ed organizzazione di nuove magistrature e soppressione delle antiche.

Placet;

Con che relativamente alla erezione ed organizzazione di nuove magistrature nei casi straordinarj sia in facoltà nostra di delegare uno o più individui, de scegliersi fra i magistrati esistenti da regolarsi però nella processura a tenore del rito e delle leggi vigenti.

CAPITOLO II.

§ 1. Il solo Parlamento avrà il potere di mettere nuove tasse di ogni specie, e di alterare quelle già stabilite. Tutti li sussidj non abbiano che la durata di un anno. Tali determinazioni però del Parlamento saranno nulle; come già si è detto delle leggi, se non saranno avvalorate delle reale sanzione.

Placet.

§ 2. La nazione da oggi in avanti sarà la proprietaria di tutti i beni ed introiti dello Stato di qualunque natura; e quindi ne disporrà il Parlamento con piena libertà, sempre però colla reale sanzione.

Placet.

CAPITOLO III.

§ 1. I beni ecclesiastici debbono considerarsi inalienabili, menochè nei casi previsti dalla Santa Chiesa.

Placet;

Menochè in quei casi che lo sono stati de jure.

CAPITOLO IV.

§ 1. Il prossimo Parlamento, e tutti gli altri che in appresso si convocheranno da Sua Real Maestà saranno composti da due Camere, l'una detta de' Pari o sia dei Signori, e l'altra dei Comuni.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

2. La Camera dei Pari risulterà da tutti quei Baroni o loro successori, e da tutti quegli ecclesiastici e loro successori, che attualmente han dritto di sedere e votare in Parlamento. I Pari, tanto spirituali che temporali, avranno testaticamente un voto solo, togliendosi l'attuale molteplicità delle loro parie.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. Viene stabilita la rispettiva ed unita paria della nota presentata dal Protonotaro del Regno e lo stesso per gli ecclesiastici; la quale nota sarà posta in fine dell' Atto Parlamentario.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. La dignità de' Pari temporali giusta quel titolo che è espresso nella nota suddetta, sarà perpetua, inalienabile, ereditaria, e non si potrà ad altri trasferire nè per vendita, nè per donazione, nè per qualsivisia maniera, fuorchè quella della successione, secondochè questa si troverà stabilita nelle particolari famiglie. Egualmente restano perpetue ed inalienabili le dignità ecclesiastiche parlamentarie.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. Sua Real Maestà potrà creare quanti nuovi Pari temporali vorrà, purchè quelli da eleggersi siano o Principi, o Duchi, o Marchesi, o Conti, o Visconti, o Baroni Siciliani, ed abbiano almeno una rendita netta sopra terre di onze scimila all' anno; perlochè qualunque diploma del Re a tal uopo non avrà alcun vigore, se prima non sarà registrato negli atti della Camera dei Pari, che sola dovrà prendere cognizione delle predette condizioni.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

Per la erezione dei Pari, nell' intelligenza però che Sua Maestà si riserva dieliare in appresso il suo Real animo sulle limitazioni.

§ 6. Erigendosi nel nostro Regno di Sicilia nuovi vescovadi, s'intendano ipso facto Pari spirituali, i nuovi vescovi e i loro successori.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 7. I Pari temporali potranno costituire per loro procuradore il loro immediato successore, e i medesimi, egualmente che gli spirituali, potranno intestare la procura a qualunque altro perchè non si cumuli nelle stessa persona più di una procura.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CAPITOLO V.

§ 1. La Camera de' Comuni sarà formata dai rappresentanti delle popolazioni di tutto il regno, senza alcuna distinzione di demaniale o baronale, nel numero e proporzione che segue:

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. Il regno tutto, fuori le isole adjacenti, si dividerà in ventitrè distretti giusta la mappa formata, nella quale sono anche notati i capi-luoghi o popolazioni capitali, e di cui si farà registro agli atti del Protonotaro del Regno; e ciascuno di questi distretti manderà alla Camera de' Comuni due rappresentanti.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. La città di Palermo ne manderà sei: le città di Catania e di Messina ne manderanno tre per ognuna; e qualunque altra città o terra, la cui popolazione arrivi al numero di 18,000 anime, ne manderà due, oltre quelli del rispettivo distretto.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. Qualunque città o terra, la cui popolazione arrivi al numero di 6000 abitanti, e non arrivi al numero di 18,000, ne manderà uno.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. Quelle città o terre poi che contino un numero di abitanti infra 6000 saranno comprese ne' distretti.

“Ma dichiara il Parlamento che questa legge non debba togliere la rappresentanza alle attuali città demaniali che la godono, ancorchè la loro popolazione non arrivi alle 6000 anime, semprechè le vicende de' tempi non abbiano ridotta alcuna di esse in tale decadenza che non abbiano se non che 2000 abitanti.”

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 6. La numerazione delle anime pubblicata nel 1798 sarà di norma all' esecuzione del predetto stabilimento; beninteso però che le ulteriori generali numerazioni da publicarsi ed approvate dal Parlamento, serviranno sempre di norma per regolare il numero de' rappresentanti.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 7. L'Isola di Lipari solamente avrà un rappresentante, come attualmente in ha ottenuto.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 8. Le università degli studi delle città di Palermo e di Catania manderanno un rappresentante per ciascheduna: qualora però l'università degli studi di Palermo avesse, come proprietaria di Badie, voce Parlamentaria fra i Pari, debba in tal caso perdere la sudetta rappresentanza ed avrà in compenso due rappresentanti nelle Camere de' Comuni.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 9. La mappa, di già ridotta agli atti, di popolazioni o rappresentanti fatta sulla numerazione del 1798 e con le regole di sopra stabilite, si metterà all'ultimo dell'atto, dopo quella de' Pari.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 10. Nessuno potrà avere nella Camera dei Comuni più di una procura o di un voto ed alcun membro della medesima non potrà sostituire o trasferire ad altri la procura fattagli da suoi costituenti.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CAPITOLO VI.

Non potranno rappresentare alcun distretto, città, terra o università degli studi

§ 1. Gli esteri di qualunque nazione;

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. Quelli, i quali non avranno venti anni compiuti;

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. Quelli, i quali saranno criminalmente accusati, fintantochè l'accusa non sia stata cancellata;

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. I presidenti e i giudici di tutti i tribunali e qualunque altro siasi magistrato, menochè i magistrati municipali;

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. Gli ufficiali dell' esercito e della marina in attuale servizio da colonnello in giù, eccettuati fra questi coloro che abbiano una rendita di onze 300 annuali;

Vetat Regiæ Majestati.

§ 6. Tutti gl'impiegati secundarj nelle Reali Segreterie, Dogane, Segrezie, ed altri rami di pubblica amministrazione, come pure quelli che avranno pensioni smovibili a piacere di Sua Real Maestà.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 7. Non potranno rappresentare un distretto quelli i quali non avranno in Sicilia una rendita netta e vitalizia, che non provenga da diretto, o utile dominio, o per qualunque censo, o rendita sopra bimestre, tande, e simili sorta di proprietà, salvo quella che provenga da officio amovibile di onze 300 all' anno.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 8. Non potranno rappresentare la città di Palermo quelli, i quali non avranno in Sicilia una rendita come sopra di onze 300 all'anno.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 9. Non potranno rappresentare una città, e terra parlamentaria, o università degli studj, quelli i quali non avranno in Sicilia una rendita come sopra di onze 150 all'anno, con che però i rappresentanti delle università degli studj sieno liberati di giustificare la detta rendita, purché fossero cattedratici della medesima università.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 10. Qualunque persona eletta, sia come rappresentante di un distretto, sia di una città o terra parlamentaria, dovrà portarsi in Parlamento a proprie spese: ma qualora le università vogliano su i sopravvanzi contribuire alle spese per portarsi i loro rappresentanti ne' Parlamenti, saranno in tal caso in libertà di farlo; con che la sovvenzione non possa eccedere più di onza una al giorno, e ciò debba farsi col consenso del Consiglio Civico.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 11. Tutti poi i Siciliani nati, o figli di Siciliani abitanti in Sicilia, ne' quali si verificassero le sopradette condizioni, potranno essere ammessi nella Camera de' Comuni, senza riguardo a grado o condizione.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPITOLO VII.

§ 1. Non saranno ammessi nella Camera dei Comuni per rappresentanti i debitori dello Stato, come parimenti saranno privati anche i Pari di sedere nella loro camera trovandosi in uguale circostanza; accordandosi però ai medesimi la rappresentanza per i debiti finora contratti collo stesso, purché si saldassero in quattr'anni: e che tutte quelle somme, che forse fossero dovute, ma che sono stata dilazionata, non formino debito, se non allorquando, spirata la dilazione non fossero corrisposte: beninteso però, che il potere esecutivo non sarà mai impedito di agire per la riscossione dei debitori a favore dell'erario nazionale.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. Resta abolita l'Eccezione Ostica per i membri di dell'una che dell'altra Camera, salvo il dritto di non essere molestati di persona, menoché in quei delitti, che si eccutueranno nel nuovo Codice.

Per l'abolizione dell' Eccezione Ostica, e per il dritto di non essere molestati di persona nelle materie civili Placet Regie Majestati; per le materie criminali, però Placet Regie Majestati, per i soli delitti a relegazione infra, fintantoché non sarà stabilito e sanzionato il nuovo Codice.

CAPITOLO VIII.

§ 1. I rappresentanti di un distretto nella Camera de' Comuni saranno eletti da tutti coloro i quali possederanno nella stesso distretto una rendita vitalizia almeno di onze 18 all'anno, sia che la stessa provenga da diretto, o utile dominio o per qualunque censo o rendita sopra bimestre, tande, e simili sorta di proprietà.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. I rappresentanti della città di Palermo saranno eletti da tutti coloro i quali possederanno nella stessa città o suo territorio una rendita o utile vitalizia almeno di onze 50 all'anno, sia che provenga da diretto o utile dominio, o per qualunque censo o rendita sopra bimestre, tande, e simili sorta di proprietà: da tutti coloro, i quali avranno nella medesima città o suo territorio un officin pubblico vitalizio e inamovibile almeno di onze 100 all'anno: e finalmente, dai cinque Consoli, che per antica osservanza han goduto il privilegio di eleggere il Procuratore della città di Palermo, e dal solo Console, e capo di ognuna delle legali corporazioni degli artefici, quante volte abbia la rendita annuale di onze 18.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 3. I rappresentanti di ogni altra città o terra parlamentaria saranno eletti da tutti coloro i quali possederanno nella stessa città o terra e suo territorio, una rendita netta e vitalizia almeno di onze 18 annuali, sia, che provenga da diretto o utile dominio, o per qualunque censo o rendita sopra bimestre, tande, e simili sorta di proprietà.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 4. Da tutti coloro che avranno nella medesima città o terra un ufficio pubblico vitalizio ed inamovibile almeno di onze 50 all' anno, e dai Consoli e capi degli artefici, purchè abbiano una rendita di onze 9 annuali.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 5. Finalmente, i rappresentanti delle due università degli studj saranno eletti dal rettore, dal segretario, e dal corpo dei professori, e dei dottori collegiali d'ognuna.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 6. Chionque possederà una rendita, come sopra, di onze 18 o più, avrà il dritto di votare e per l'elezione dei rappresentanti della stessa città o terra, per quella del distretto nel quale essa città o terra è compresa.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 7. Gli stessi requisiti espressati per i rappresentanti devono osservarsi per gli elettori, ad eccezione della rendita.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPILO IX.

§ 1. I capitani d'arme, o i capitani giustizieri, saranno quelli, i quali dovranno assistere alla elezione dei rappresentanti nella Camera dei Comuni de' rispettivi luoghi alla loro giurisdizione soggetti a seconda delle istruzioni che saranno fatte a suo tempo.

Placet Regie Majestati.

Essendosi già approvate le istruzioni.

§ 2. Apparterrà al capitano d'arme d'ogni distretto, ed al capitano giustiziere d'ogni città o terra parlamentarin, il tenere il ruolo dei votanti, della di cui formazione si parlerà in appresso; ed il convocare tali votanti per procedere alle dette elezioni in giorni prefissi.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 3. Impedire i disordini e le irregolarità in sì fatte adunanze, il decidere inappellabilmente sul momento qualunque dubbio, e controversia, che nascer potrà sopra la legalità dei voti e delle elezioni; e dicesi inappellabilmente, per prevenire sul luogo i disordini che altrimenti potrebbero accadere, giacchè le parti che si crederanno gravate dalle procedure e decisioni dei capitano d'arme, o giustizieri, potranno, dopo la elezione, portarne querela alla Camera dei Comuni, la quale sola avrà il dritto di decidere della legalità o illegalità della elezione dei suoi proprj membri.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 4. Seguita la elezione, avvisarla subito al Protonotaro, e darne parimenti un certificato alla persona eletta.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 5. In caso che la rappresentanza di un distretto o di una città o terra venisse per qualunque siasi causa a vacare, quel tale distretto, o città, o terra potrà passare alla nuova elezione colle forme stabilite, e sarà dovere di ogni capitano d'arme o capitano giustiziere l'intimare la nuova elezione, previa la notizia legale allo stesso iovinta, come si stabilirà in appresso.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 6. Per le elezioni dei rappresentanti delle due università degli studj di Palermo e di Catania si eseguiranno le anzidette incombenze dal rispettivo rettore di ognuna, ed in mancanza di questo, dal più antico de' professori.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 7. I capitani d'arme, e i capitani giustizieri, e i due rettori delle università degli studj di Palermo e di Catania non devono ingerirsi nel giudicare dei requisiti sopra specificati, che aver devono i candidati, per essere eletti rappresentanti dei Comuni, appartenendo, fatte già le elezioni tale esame e giudizj, prima al Protonotaro, e quindi ad istanza delle parti interessate, alla Camera de' Comuni.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPILO X.

§ 1. Le elezioni dei rappresentanti dei distretti si faranno nelle capitali dei distretti medesimi.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. Quelle dei rappresentanti delle città e terre parlamentarie nelle stesse città e terre.

Placet Regis Majestati.

§ 3. Si designerà sempre per tali adunanze un luogo pubblico o una piazza ad elezione dei rispettivi capitani.

Placet Regis Majestati.

§ 4. Ogni elettore sarà in libertà di proporre qualunque candidato, ma la elezione caderà sopra colui che ha riportato maggior numero di voti.

Placet Regis Majestati.

§ 5. Ciascun elettore dovrà dare il suo voto personalmente, o per procura, ad alta voce in mani del rispettivo maestro notaro, e alla presenza del capitano e dei suoi uffiziali, che ne faranno registro secondo le formole che si stabiliranno in appresso.

Placet Regis Majestati.

Stante le formole di già approvate.

§ 6. Nessun Pari avrà il dritto di frammischarsi nelle elezioni dei membri della Camera de' Comuni.

Placet Regis Majestati.

§ 7. Il maestro notaro del comune dove le elezioni si dovranno effettuare, sarà colui che assisterà alle medesime.

Placet Regis Majestati.

§ 8. Sarà proibito a truppa di qualunque sorta di risiedere in quei luoghi in cui si faranno le sopradette elezioni.

Placet Regis Majestati.

§ 9. Se si troverà forz' armata di ordinaria guarnigione, menochè il servizio del giorno puramente necessario, dovrà questa allontanarsi almeno alla distanza di due miglia, due giorni prima, e ritornare due giorni dopo, che saranno compite le elezioni suddette.

Placet Regis Majestati.

§ 10. Nessuno impiegato o dipendente alla Corona potrà intromettersi nelle elezioni suddette sotto la pena di onze 200 e della perdita dell' ufficio.

Placet Regis Majestati.

§ 11. I candidati non potranno dare agli elettori denaro, feste, pranzi, o altro, sotto la pena di onze 200 e di nullità di elezione.

Placet Regis Majestati.

§ 12. Le elezioni dei rappresentanti delle due università di Palermo e di Catania si eseguiranno cogli stessi regolamenti rapportati di sopra, ed il rispettivo segretario, in presenza del rettore, farà la veci del maestro notaro per ricevere e registrare i voti de' professori.

Placet Regis Majestati.

§ 13. L'accettazione d'un impiego dato del Re rende vacante ipso facto il posto che si ha nella Camera dei Comuni, eccettuati gl'impieghi militari potrà essere nuovamente eletto, menochè per tutti quegli' impieghi che sono eccettuati a tenore del § 6 del Cap. vi di sopra indicati.

Placet Regis Majestati.

Conchè tutti gli altri impiegati non esclusi nel citato paragrafo 6 del Capitolo vi possono intervenire.

CAPITOLO XI.

§ 1. Sarà unicamente dritto di Sua Maestà quello di convocare, sciogliere, e prorogare li Parlamento.

Placet Regis Majestati.

§ 2. Il Re sarà tenuto convocarlo in ogni anno come è stato sanzionato all' Art. nono.

Placet Regis Majestati.

§ 3. Sua Real Maestà però dovrà convocare, prorogare, sciogliere il Parlamento sempre inteso il parere del suo Consiglio privato, della di cui formazione si tratterà in appresso.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 4. La rappresentanza alla Camera dei Comuni non avrà vita al di là di anni quattro, da contarsi dalla data della convocazione, dopo quale termine essa cesserà naturalmente.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 5. La convocazione del Parlamento dovrà farsi per via del Protonotaro del Regno, il quale manifesterà la volontà del Re ad ogni Pari e Rappresentanti dei Comuni, premesso l'ordine del Re per via del Ministro di Stato competente comunicato al Protonotaro.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 6. Nella rinnovazione poi della Camera dei Comuni intimerà i capitani d'armi, i capitani giustizieri, e i rettori delle due università a dover convocare gli elettori, per procedersi alle elezioni de' rispettivi rappresentanti de' comuni fra un dato tempo che non sarà mai nè più nè meno di giorni quaranta; e ciò secondo le forme di cui si parlerà in appresso, premesso l'ordine del Re, per via del Ministro di Stato competente comunicato al Protonotaro.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 7. L'apertura del Parlamento si farà da Sua Real Maestà intervenendo personalmente, o per delegazione ad uno de' Pari nella Camera stessa de' Signori, i quali daranno il giuramento di fedeltà in mano de' due Commissarj del Re nelle formole cattoliche, dove pure interverranno i Comuni, che resteranno all' impiedi ed alla barra della Camera.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 8. Il Re vi pronuncierà o farà leggere un discorso analogo alla circostanza, a cui nessun de' Membri ha facoltà di rispondere.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 9. La prorogazione o dissoluzione del Parlamento si farà da Sua Real Maestà personalmente, o per delegazione, con quelle medesime formalità (eccetto il giuramento, specificate per l'apertura.

Placet Regie Majestati;

Nel senso che, la prorogazione s'intenda, che si debba riunire il Parlamento ad altro tempo, non classo l'anno dalla convocazione, come si è stabilito nel paragrafo secondo di questo capitolo, e per dissoluzione debba intendersi, che Sua Maestà vuole convocarlo con nuovi membri della Camera de' Comuni, e tanto nel primo che nel secondo caso qualunque discussione pendente si dovrà riputare come non fatta.

CAPITOLO XII.

1. Nella Camera de' Pari starà sempre eretto il trono sopra tre scalini.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. Il giorno dell' apertura del Parlamento il Re vi sederà.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 3. Gli staranno a destra i Principi della Famiglia Reale, che abbiano rappresentanza, o spirituale, o temporale, indi gli arcivescovi, i vescovi, e gli altri ecclesiastici giusta la loro precedenza; a man sinistra i Pari temporali secondo il loro titolo; dirimpetto al trono staranno all' impiedi i membri de' Comuni dietro la barra, che sarà situata in fondo.

Placet Regie Majestati;

Con che vi assistano i membri che compongono il primario magistrato del regno; e fintantochè non saranno organizzati i nuovi magistrati, sarà la giunta de' presidenti e consultori.

CAPITOLO XIII.

§ 1. Nella Camera de' Comuni nessun membro avrà la menoma distinzione o precedenza; in quella de' Pari però si conserverà l'istesso ordine di sedere secondo l'antichità di ciascuna paria, in modo che i nuovi eletti, qualunque sia il loro titolo, prenderanno l'ultimo luogo.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. I voti in tutte le due Camere si daranno confusamente con situarsi a dritta gli affermativi e a sinistra coloro che saranno per la negativa.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPITOLO XIV.

§ 1. Il Presidente della Camera de' Pari sarà in ogni Parlamento eletto da Sua Real Maestà fra i membri della Camera stessa; e quello de' Comuni sarà eletto dall'istessa Camera de' Comuni ed approvato da Sua Real Maestà.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. La elezione del Presidente della Camera de' Comuni si farà il giorno appresso che sarà fatta la solenne apertura, al quale effetto presederà il Protonotaro del Regno.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 3. Questa elezione si farà a voti segreti e potrà cadere solamente su i membri della Camera de' Comuni.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPITOLO XV.

§ 1. Il Presidente d'ogni Camera avrà le seguenti preeminenze ed attributi:

Sederà in un luogo distinto;

Risponderà ed aringherà in nome della Camera quante volte occorra;

Metterà gli affari in deliberazione;

Proporrà il tempe di dare i voti e dopo raccolti per mezzo del cancelliere ne pubblicherà il risultato;

Deciderà definitivamente tutte le controversie che potranno insorgere fra i membri, per la precedenza della parola;

Intimerà silenzio ed ordine, insorgendo nella Camera animosità e disturbi; e se alcuno prontamente non desisterà, la Camera potrà punirlo con un voto di censura a voce o in iscritto, o con più severe ammonizioni e castighi in proporzione della di lui contumacia e colpevole condotta.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. Il Presidente avrà solamente voto in caso di parità.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 3. Maneggerà le spese e soprantenderà al regime ed alla polizia della Camera.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 4. Eseguirà e sottoscriverà da parte della Camera tutti i decreti della medesima.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 5. Potrà avvertire chiunque de' membri giudicherà, ma senza dure ed ingiuriose espressioni; potrà minacciare de' castighi senza poterne infligger alcuno che col consenso della Camera.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 6. Sarà egli in tutto come ogni altro membro sottoposto alla censura e alle punizioni della Camera, le quali in casi gravissimi si estenderanno alla privazione dell'ufficio o alla espulsione dalla Camera.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPITOLO XVI.

§ 1. Nessun giudice o magistrato potrà mai inquirire, processare, arrestare, proferire o eseguire sentenza contro i membri delle due Camere, o contro le Camere istesse per qua-

lunque cosa sinì da loro detta, fatta, discussa e deliberata nel Parlamento istesso, ciò sotto la pena di onze 1000, della perdita di qualunque pubblico officio, e della relegazione per dieci anni in una isola.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. Sua Real Maestà nella esecuzione di tali sentenze non potrà mai accordare perdono o mitigazione alcuna al castigo dovuto ai delinquenti; nè questi per iscusare o minorare il loro reato, potranno allegare ordine o commissiuni della Maestà Sua.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 3. La Camera sola potrà prendere cognizione degli eccessi che i suoi membri commetteranno nella stessa Camera; ad essa sola si apparterrà di punirli con voti di censura espressi a voce o ridotti agli atti, colla carcerazione, col divieto d'intervenire in Parlamento, o con pene anche più gravi, come si dichiarerà nel nuovo Codice Criminale.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPILO XVII.

§ 1. Ognuno de' due Presidenti eleggerà il cancelliere della sua Camera coll'annuo soldo di onze 400.

Per le cariche *Placet Regie Majestati*: con che verranno creati dal Re a nomina del rispettivo Presidente.

§ 2. Ognuno di questi due cancellieri eleggerà due segretari coll'annuo soldo di onze 150, ed altri uffiziali subalterni che si crederanno dalla Camera necessari.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 3. I due Presidenti eleggeranno un usciere per ciascuna di loro Camera coll'annua somma di onze 100 per ognuno.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 4. I due cancellieri co' rispettivi segretari registreranno distintamente tutti gli atti delle loro Camere, conterranno e pubblicheranno i voti e ne conserveranno rispettivamente i registri.

Placet Regie Majestati;

In conformità della sovrana sanzione apposta al § 1 di questo capitolo.

§ 5. Il Protonotaro del Regno manterrà l'archivio di tutti gli atti Parlamentari sanzionati e non sanzionati in officio esistente nella stessa casa del Parlamento.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 6. Vi sarà oltre de' sopradetti impieghi nella Camera de' Comuni un capitano d'ordine che sarà ad elezione del Presidente di essa Camera: costui manterrà la polizia nella Camera, per cui l'uscirne dipenderà da suoi ordini. Sarà suo speciale dovere di eseguire qualsiasi mandato della Camera medesima, avutane l'autorizzazione per iscritto dal Presidente di essa, per gli affari che riguardano la stessa Camera solamente, coll'annuo soldo di onze 150. Il Presidente della Camera de' Pari eleggerà un altro simile uffiziale col soldo medesimo a tenore della Costituzione d'Inghilterra.

Placet Regie Majestati;

Per le cariche; ma saranno eletti dal Re a nomina del Protonotaro, fintantochè non si stabilirà da Sua Maestà un impiego analogo a quello del gran Camerlingo.

§ 7. Le ambasciate da una Camera all'altra si recheranno da tre membri, o più, secondochè sarà determinato da ciascuna delle Camere stesse.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 8. Sarà cura degli uscieri conservare la polizia nella Camera, e nelle sedute assistere alla porta, escludendo chiunque non sarà autorizzato ad entrarvi e servire in tutte le altre occorrenze.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 9. Tutti i sopradetti uffiziali non potranno rimuoversi dall'impiego, che per colpa nel loro officio, o per poco lodevole condotta.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 10. Vi sarà una stamperia di dipendenza del Parlamento dentro le mura del suo edificio. La sua spesa dovrà aggiungersi alle altre sopra mentovate.

Vetat Regia Majestas.

§ 11. Il direttore della medesima dipenderà immediatamente ed unicamente dai Presidenti delle due Camere, i quali dovranno dare, ad esclusione di ogni altro, gli ordini per la stampa di tutte quelle mosioni o atti che si risolveranno nelle Camere rispettivamente.

Vetat Regia Majestas.

§ 12. Si formeranno nelle Camere delle ringhiere per le persone che non sono parlamentarie.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 13. Avranno queste l'ingresso per biglietto firmato da uno de' membri delle Camere, o dal Presidente.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 14. I primi non potranno darne, che un solo, l'altro due.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 15. Chiunque però avrà l'ingresso non potrà portare armi, bastoni, batter le mani, parlare ad alta voce, e commettere qualunque indecenza, sotto pena non solo di esser cacciato dalla Camera, ma ben anche di essere arrestato, e quando la Camera si formerà in comitato segreto non potrà rimanervi.

Placet Regia Majestati.

CAPITOLO XVIII.

§ 1. In ciascuna delle due Camere chiunque dei suoi membri potrà avanzare qualunque proposta.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 2. Le proposte di legge presentate alla Camera in iscritto, prima di passarsi alla finale deliberazione o votazione, si dovranno leggere e discutere in tre differenti sedute. Potrà la Camera per maturamente esaminarsi le proposte suddette, eleggere un comitato, il quale ne debba fare il suo rapporto accompagnato dal suo parere alla Camera istessa; potrà però intervenire il primario tribunale del regno, che sederà in un luogo separato dai Pari, e dietro il Presidente, il quale non potrà interloquire sopra alcuna materia, se non sarà interrogato, ed allora avrà voto solamente consultivo a tenore della costituzione d'Inghilterra.

Placet Regia Majestati.

Beninteso che in seguito di quanto si è detto al § 3 del cap. 12, i membri del primario magistrato debbano esser chiamati ad ogni nuovo Parlamento, per potere intervenire nelle sedute della Camera de' Pari, e dare sopra ogni materia giudiziaria il loro voto puramente consultivo.

§ 3. Per l'istesso oggetto potrà l'intera Camera costituirsi in comitato segreto, ed apportarvi quei miglioramenti e correzioni che giudicherà senza la solita formalità.

Placet Regia Majestati.

4. Ognuna delle due Camere potrà a piacere aggiornare le sue adunanze, discussioni e deliberazioni.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 5. La proposta rigettata in una delle due Camere non potrà riproporsi, che nella sessione dell'anno seguente.

Placet Regia Majestati.

CAPITOLO XIX.

§ 1. Qualunque proposta relativa a sussidj, ed imposizioni dovrà iniziarsi nella Camera dei Comuni.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 2. Quella de' Pari avrà solamente il dritto di assentirvi o dissentirvi senza però potervi fare alterazione o modificazione alcuna.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 3. Tutte le proposte che per loro conseguenze potranno ledere i dritti della Paria devono iniziarsi nella Camera de' Pari, e non possono ricevere alcuna modificazione in quella dei Comuni, la quale avrà solamente il dritto di assentirvi o dissentirvi.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 4. Sua Real Maestà non potrà ingerirsi, nè prendere cognizione alcuna delle proposte che sono pendenti nelle Camere del Parlamento, ma queste solamente, dopochè saranno state passate alla votazione di ambe le Camere, dovranno presentarsi a Sua Real Maestà, per averne un assoluto Placet o Veto.

Placet Regie Majestati.

— § 5. La Maestà Sua manifesterà il Placet o Veto, inteso il parere del suo privato consiglio, o con real rescritto; o a voce, intervenendo nella Camera dei Pari, ove si raduneranno puri i membri della Camera dei Comuni colle forme di sopra descritte.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 6. Tutte le volte che Sua Real Maestà volesse dare a voce la sua real sanzione, intervenendo nella Camera dei Pari, i membri de' Comuni vi interverranno all'impiedi dietro la barra, il Protonotaro leggerà ad alta voce gli articoli stabiliti dal Parlamento, ed il cancelliere della Camera dei Comuni profferirà il Placet o Veto che sarà decretato dal Re.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 7. Il cancelliere in fine di ogni articolo noterà il Placet o Veto, per indi legalizzati dalla firma del Protonotaro del Regno e dal real suggello d'apporsi dal medesimo, conservarsi originalmente ne' rispettivi archivi del Parlamento e del Protonotaro.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 8. Una Camera non potrà ingerirsi, nè prendere cognizione delle proposte che si discutono e sono nell'altra pendenti.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 9. In caso però che le due Camere fossero d'accordo in alcuni punti e discordi in altri di una medesima proposta, potrà ciascuna di loro deputare un certo numero de' suoi membri, perchè questi sedendo insieme, procurassero di conciliare le differenze e ridurre le Camere all'accordo ed alla uniformità de' voti.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPITOLO XX.

Per essero compita la Camera dei Pari, vi vogliono almeno trenta componenti la medesima, e per essere compita quella de' Comuni ve ne vogliono almeno sessanta. Qualora i Presidenti delle rispettive Camere vedranno di non esservi il sopradetto numero di membri, aggiungeranno la seduta o al giorno appresso o a quel giorno che si troverà antecedentemente dato.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPITOLO XXI.

Le due Camere del Parlamento potranno fissare, per le loro sedute, giorni diversi, non essendo necessario che nello stesso giorno siedano ambe le Camere.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPITOLO XXII.

Ogni cittadino Siciliano che non fosse membro del Parlamento potrà avanzare una sua domanda, querela o progetto di legge per lui, o in nome del pubblico, al Parlamento, per mezzo però di un membro del medesimo: se la domanda, progetto o querela riguarda un oggetto pubblico, il membro di una delle due Camere che ne sarà incaricato, non potrà ricusarsi di leggerlo pubblicamente alla Camera: se riguarda un oggetto particolare, si dovrà dare ad un comitato, per discutersi, se debba accettarsi o ricusarsi.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPITOLO XXIII.

Ogni Pari ha il dritto di fare inserire nel giornale della Camera le sue proteste o ragioni che l'accompagnano, e ciò quando è stata determinata dalla Camera una cosa contraria al suo sentimento.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPITOLO XXIV.

§ 1. Ogni membro di ciascuna Camera che sarà accusato dovrà immediatamente uscirne, e non potrà rientrarvi, che chiamato alla barra o cancellata la sua accusa.

Placet Regie Majestati;

Quante volte l'accusa sia fatta per mezzo di rapporto di un comitato, e non già per la sola mozione.

§ 2. Le ingiunzioni si eseguiranno per via degli uscieri.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 3. La Camera de' Comuni dopo avere stabilita l'accusa comincerà a fare le ricerche per le prove e per i documenti del processo, e manderà l'accusa documentata alla Camera dei Pari, la quale passerà a compilare il processo, e quindi al giudizio, ed alla condanna del reo.

Placet Regie Majestati;

Perciò che riguarda i delitti comuni soltanto; ma trattandosi d'una malversazione qualunque, la Camera de' Comuni farà unicamente l'accusa, ed il dippiù si praticherà dalla Camera dei Pari.

§ 4. Entrambe le Camere hanno il dritto di fare arrestare qualunque persona, da cui sieno state oltraggiate; ma prima di chiudersi il Parlamento dovrà, se l'affare non sia definito, essere commesso al magistrato ordinario.

Placet Regie Majestati;

Con che seguito lo arresto, debba rimettersi il querelato al magistrato ordinario (qualora sia necessario di farsi il processo) onde lo formi, e pronunzi la sentenza definitiva: nell'intelligenza, che quegli arrestati, che non si troveranno rimessi al tribunale, nello sciogliersi o prorogarsi il Parlamento, resteranno immediatamente liberi.

CAPITOLO XXV.

§ 1. Tutti i Pari sono uguali in dritti: essi sono consiglieri ereditari della Corona.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. I Pari e le loro mogli e vedove, finchè non passino a seconde nozze, come anche le eredi delle parie, debbano essere giudicati nelle materie criminali dalla Camera dei Pari con quelle forme che si stabiliranno in appresso.

Placet Regie Majestati;

Riserbandosi Sua Maestà di dichiarare il suo Real animo sulle forme da stabilirsi.

§ 3. La Paria si limita ai soli padri di famiglia.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 4. I Pari faranno le testimonianze sul proprio onore, e non con giuramento, come i Comuni.

Placet Regie Majestati;

Quando sia per il giudizio, che i Pari pronunziano; ma quando saranno ricevuti come testimoni, o chiamati come rei, allora dovranno prestare il giuramento tanto nelle cause civili che criminali.

CONSIGLI CIVICI

E MAGISTRATURE MUNICIPALI.

CAPITOLO I.

Tutti i negozj pubblici ed interessi dei comunidel regno dovranno essere trattati ed amministrati da un Consiglio e Magistrato Municipale nella forma e modo qui sotto descritti:

§ 1. Saranno naturali componenti del consiglio di tutte le popolazioni e città di questo regno tutti coloro che votar possono per la elezione dei rappresentanti delle medesime nella Camera dei Comuni, purchè sieno naturali, o che abbiano ottenuto la cittadinanza dello stesso comune.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. Tali consigli tuttavia non potranno essere composti di più di sessanta membri, nè meno di trenta per qualunque comune; in tutte quelle città poi, le quali manderanno in Parlamento più di un rappresentante, crescerà il numero dei membri nel loro consigli in ragione di dieci per ogni rappresentante che interverrà in Parlamento.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. Se il numero dei componenti di un consiglio sarà minore di trenta, dovrà completarsi con aggiungervisi dal medesimo consiglio, sotto nome di Aggregati, quei cittadini del luogo, nei quali concorre la maggiore fiducia.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

4. Se però il numero degli anzidetti membri oltrepasserà quello di sessanta, tutto il loro corpo ne sceglierà in ogni tre anni sessanta per la formazione del civico consiglio.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. I dritti e le incumbenze del consiglio civico saranno:

Stabilire quel sistema di pubblica annona, che riputerà più confacente al bene generale di quel comune.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 6. Non potrà però a tale effetto, senza l'autorità del Parlamento, imporre tasse; ordinare imprestiti forzati; chiedere preferenza nei contratti di compra e vendita; proibire o limitare l'entrata o l'esportazione di qualunque merce e genere; impedire la libera pazziazione dei particolari; e generalmente violare e restringere il sagro dritto di proprietà di chiechessa.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 7. Si permettono bensì gl' imprestiti forzati nei soli casi urgentissimi di decisa carestia, d'incendio, di peste, di alluvione, di terremoto, e sbarco dei nemici, restando in dritto ciascuno, che si erederà gravato di farne i dovuti reclami al Parlamento.

Non potrà mai in qualunque de' sopradetti casi, nè in qualunque altro gravare i possidenti non abitanti nel comune, nè direttamente, nè indirettamente, sulle loro proprietà di qualunque natura.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 8. Restano abolite dall' imminente raccolto, dopo la Real sanzione le così dette "Terze Parti," che si sogliono contribuire sulla produzione dei grani.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 9. Ciascun comune deve provvedere alla sua annona per mezzo di un peculio, che dovrà formarsi o supplirsi con una imposizione fondata su i riveli fatti in esecuzione del Parlamento del 1810; da ritirarsi per una sola volta da' proprietari possidenti terre, che appartengono ai territori dei rispettivi comuni: quale imposizione non potrà eccedere il cinque per cento, restando bensì l'obbligo a coloro, da' quali forse saranno rettificati i riveli a contribuire quel di più che avrebbero dovuto sin da principio pagare in forza della suddetta imposizione.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 10. Restano esclusi dalla suddetta contribuzione i domini diretti, intermedi; restano egualmente eccettuate dal pagamento tutte quelle terre, i di cui proprietari trovansi avere preventivamente rcomprato un tal peso.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 11. Non van compresi nella presente legge tutti quei comuni, i quali altronde han ovveduto al peculio.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 12. Il civico consiglio stabilirà la proporazione della tassa fino al cinque per cento a seconda delle circostanze del luogo.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 13. Lo stesso consiglio determinerà il metodo dell' amministrazione di detto peculio, ferma rimanendo la solidale responsabilità di tutti i consolenti.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 14. Ogni proprietario che dovrà come sopra contribuire, sarà tenuto depositare il suo tangente in Maggio del prossimo venturo anno 1813; ma per i feudi atti in parte a seminario, trovansi gabellati per più anni in danaro, dovrà questo aborrersi dal gabellato da

compensarselo sulla gabella da lui dovuta, menochè quella rata che deve da lui contribuire colla seguente proporzione.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 15. La tassa che sarà per imporsi sopra tal fondo, si dovrà dividere in venti rate, ed il gabello sarà tenuto contribuire tante vigenime per quanti sono gli anni della gabella, da correre dal giorno dell'imposizione.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 16. Apparterrà al civico consiglio il proporre i mezzi di provvedere ai bisogni del proprio comune o sia stabilire la così detta congrua, beninteso però che quanto all'accrescere con nuovi pesi comunitativi gl'introiti, ciò non possa farsi senza l'intelligenza ed approvazione del Parlamento.

Non potrà mai però, in qualunque de' sopradetti casi, nè in qualunque altro, gravare i possidenti non abitanti nel comune, nè direttamente, nè indirettamente, sulle loro proprietà di qualunque natura.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 17. Soprantendere agl'introiti ed alle spese del comune e divisare quelle pubbliche istituzioni, ed opere che servano per i bisogni, comodo ed ornato del comune medesimo.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 18. Eleggere il magistrato municipale e sindacarne in ogni anno i conti.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 19. Per questo effetto saranno nella fine di ogni indizione destinati dal consiglio cinque dei suoi propri membri per farne lo esame e la discussione alla presenza del suddetto magistrato o di persone da lui delegate: sul rapporto e parere di questi cinque membri, il consiglio procederà dopo matura deliberazione a determinare l'approvazione o la riprovazione.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 20. Fattasi con atto solenne dal consiglio l'approvazione, il magistrato municipale resterà libero da qualunque ulteriore inquisizione e querela per l'amministrazione tenuta l'anno precedente.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 21. Pronanziandosi però la riprovazione o censura dal consiglio, i cinque sopradetti membri a nome del comune proporranno l'accusa e si adopereranno per la convenevole punizione presso i magistrati ordinari. Il magistrato municipale e tutti gli amministratori ed i congiunti sino a quel grado di sospizione che si dichiarerà dal nuovo codice, non potranno dar voto nell'elezione dei cinque membri sindacatori, nè nello esame e querela della loro amministrazione.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 22. Il consiglio di ogni città o popolazione di questo regno si adunerà regolarmente una volta il mese ed straordinariamente quante volte sarà richiesto dal magistrato municipale.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 23. Il dritto di convocarlo e di presiedervi sarà del capitano giustiziere, il quale in caso di parità di voti ne avrà uno di più.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 24. I conti dell'amministrazione di qualunque ramo municipale dovranno esser dati alle stampe e pubblicarsi in ogni anno, ed i libri dovranno essere manifesti ad ognuno.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CAPITOLO II.

§ 1. Il magistrato municipale di ogni popolazione sarà composto dello stesso numero; conserverà la stessa denominazione di Senatori, o Giurati, e le medesime esteriori onorificenze delle quali sinora ha goduto.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. Sarà tutto eletto nel prossimo venturo mese di Maggio 1813, dal consiglio civico; l'elezione di tale magistrato municipale si eseguirà a suffragj segreti, e si concluderà colla maggioranza dei voti.

Nello stesso mese di Maggio di ogni anno il consiglio cambierà solamente uno di questi membri, ed io sua vece ne surrognerà un altro, talchè la durata degl'individui componenti tale magistrato municipale, sarà per tanti anni, quanti saranno i membri che lo compongono.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 3. E siccome con un tale regolamento non tutti avranno nel primo periodo la medesima durata, così si rimetterà alla sorte la decisione di colui che ogni anno dovrà deporre la carica, quale periodo terminato, deporrà la carica il più antico fra tutti.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 4. L'elezione di tale magistrato dovrà cadere su i possidenti probi e facoltosi del comune.

Saranno esclusi coloro che si trovano interessati ne' pubblici arrendamenti.

Le così dette mastre serrate restano abolite.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 5. Quei membri che saranno eletti potranno, seguita l'elezione, immettersi nell' esercizio del loro impiego.

Placet Regia Majestati.

Le preminenze e gl' incarichi del sudetto magistrato municipale saranno :

§ 6. I. Rappresentare immediatamente il comune ;

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 7. II. Curare tutti gli oggetti di pubblica salute con quella autorità e dipendenza dall' attuale supremo e generale magistrato di salute, come sarà stabilito nel nuovo piano di magistrature e nel novello Codice.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 8. III. Eleggere i soliti ufficiali subalterni del comune colla facoltà di poterli rimuovere.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 9. IV. Amministrare tutte le rendite del comune.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 10. V. Eseguire tutte le risoluzioni del civico consiglio circa l'annona e qualsivoglia altro ramo di pubblica economia.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 11. VI. Vegliare all'osservanza del nuovo sistem a metrico a tenore del codice metrico-siculo stampato in Catania nel corrente anno 1812, con quelle giurisdizioni e dipendenze che in seguito stabilirà il Parlamento.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 12. La carica di sindaco resta abolita, ed il proconservadore non avrà più ingerenza nel magistrato municipale.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 13. Nessuna autorità potrà ingerirsi e regolare le operazioni di qualunque consiglio e magistrato municipale.

Vetat Regia Majestas.

§ 14. Ogni cittadino però ha il dritto di querelarsi ed accusare l'uno e l'altro presso i magistrati ordinarij per qualsivoglia loro decreto o procedimento illegale.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 15. Sarà pure in arbitrio di ogni cittadino avanzare le sue querele e rimonstranze sullo stesso oggetto ai tribunali ordinarij.

Placet Regia Majestati.

CAPITOLO III.

§ 1. Sarà totalmente libera l'esportazione ed importazione da un luogo all'altro del regno delle derrate d'ogni specie.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 2. Nessuno magistrato municipale altra autorità potrà impedire la libera circolazione de' generi sotto pretesto di pubblico bisogno ed utilità.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 3. Saranno ugualmente abolite tutte le dogane interne del regno di qualunque natura e le segresie, con doverse però compensare il valore o la rendita a quei particolari che con titolo oneroso attualmente possiedono le dette segresie e dogane, o la rendita su di esse, e con quegli stabilimenti prescritti dal Parlamento: al momento poi che sarà indennizzato il proprietario, resteranno annullate le gabellezioni che potranno trovarsi fatte.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 4. Restano aboliti gli officj dei Protomedici del Regno beninteso, che dovrà aver luogo tale abolizione tostochè nel novo Codice Civile da compilarli vi sarà sostituita una nuova polizia medica.

Sua Maestà si riserva di emanare le sue sovrane deliberazioni, anhitochè avrà esaminato quanto sarà per stabilirsi per questo articolo nel nuovo Codice delle Leggi Civili e Criminali.

§ 5. I visitatori che ogn'anno sono dal Protomedico destinati nel regno restano parimenti aboliti; beninteso che dovrà aver luogo tale abolizione tostochè nel nuovo Codice Civile da compilarli vi sarà sostituita una nuova polizia medica.

Sua Maestà si riserva di emanare le sue sovrane deliberazioni, anhitochè avrà esaminato quanto sarà per stabilirsi per questo articolo nel nuovo Codice delle Leggi Civili e Criminali.

COLONNA ANNONARIA DI PALERMO.

Siccome il Parlamento si è occupato a stabilire in ogni città e terra il peculio quando attualmente non l'abbiano, così si è eredito anche occuparsi dello stabilimento di una colonna annonaria per la capitale.

Ha richiamato alla sua memoria il Parlamento, che ne' generali comizj tenuti nel 1648, allorchè per riparare allo sbilancio di quei tempi s'imposero le così dette nuove gabelle sul vino, farina, orzo, olio, ed altri generi, fu determinato dal civico consiglio, che tutti li cittadini Palermitani dovessero pagare siffutte imposizioni senza alcuna eccezione di persone, ancorchè di classe privilegiata e discendenti da sangue regio.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 1. Essendosi però col tempo introdotte abusivamente delle franchezze ed esenzioni contro le disposizioni del surriferito consiglio civico a favore della Regia Corte e della truppa, ed importando queste attualmente onze sediecimila circa in ogn'anno, secondo il risultato di un coacervo di anni quattro, ha stabilito il Parlamento, che tutte simiglianti esenzioni restassero abolite dal primo Gennaio del prossimo anno 1813, e che la divisa somma si cumulasse unitamente ad altre somme che più sotto s'indicheranno, sinu all'imponente somma di onze duecentomila.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 2. Ha pure riflettuto il Parlamento, che dallo stesso civico consiglio si determinò, che verificandosi degli avanzi di suddetti introiti, si debbano questi impiegare nella estinazione de' capitali delle soggiogazioni, e che in oggi tali avanzi ascendono alla somma di onze ventimila annuali circa.

Non ha trascurato il Parlamento di avere presenti le diverse disposizioni date dal Governo di tempo in tempo per tali avanzi; una fissandosi sul lodo pubblicato fra la deputazione di nuove gabelle, e i creditori soggiogatarj bimestranti, dal Duca Lucchesi, allora Pretore, e dal Marchese D. Donato Tommasi, allora Conservadore Generale, che da Sua Maestà fu approvata con dispaccio de' 10 Luglio, 1808, e fu dato alle stampe; ha ora il Parlamento rilevato; che in detto lodo si prescrive che la somma di onze dodicimila novecentonovanta s'impiegasse porzione in isconto delle quattro annate di attrasso sulle dette soggiogazioni e porzione in ricompra degli stessi bimestri.

Da ciò ne siegue, che rimangono onze settemila annue sulle riferite onze ventimila che si è espresso di sopra, formare la quantità de' sopranzi; quali onze settemila è stato solito girarsi al Senato per supplire al pagamento de' suoi debiti annuarj come si ordinò con real dispaccio de' 2 Luglio, 1810.

Siccome però in virtù di un real dispaccio dei 6 Agosto del corrente anno 1812 è stata accordata al riferito senato la intera percezione del primo e secondo tari del nuovo imposto, onde così riparare ai suoi debiti, e dichiara la Maestà Sua in detto dispaccio, che si riserva in appresso dare le provvidenze sugli avanzi delle nuove gabelle; così è, che il Parlamento stabilisce, che le accennate onze 7600, e tutta quella quantità di avanzi che potesse esservi sopra le dette onze 7000 si unisse ogn'anno all'espresso di sopra onze 16,000, per la formazione del cumulo prescritto delle onze 200,000; e ciò a contare dall'anno corrente, principio il primo Luglio, 1812, e da correre a tutti li 30 Giugno del prossimo anno 1813 che forma il così detto anno pretorio.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 3. Viene pure in rilevare il Parlamento, che per determinazione del consiglio civico dei 12 Giugno del corrente anno 1812, e da Sua Maestà approvata con dispaccio de' 16 dello stesso, siasi accresciuto di altri tari 6 il dazio della polizza del macino, e per il quale vi ha di già l'offerta di onze 23,000 annuali. Essendosi bensì fatta una tale imposizione per rimborsarsi il senato della perdita, che sta soffrendo nell'attuale panizzazione e dallo smaltirsi il pane a quel peso, che non permetterebbe il costo de' frumenti; ha stabilito il Parlamento, che dal giorno in cui sarà soddisfatto il senato della perdita di cui si tratta, prenda l'incarico di esigere le centate onze 23,000 annuali per il detto aumento sul macino, la deputazione di nuove gabelle, come quella, che riscote l'altro antico dazio sul riferito macino unitamente ad altri dazj civici e si aggregino dette onze 23,000 alle due partite indicate di sopra, componenti la somma di onze 23,000 circa ogn' anno, per così eseguirsi con maggiore speditezza il cumulo di onze 200,000 per la colonna annonaria.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 4. La deputazione di nuove gabelle per come anderà incassando delle somme per conto di tale colonna annonaria, le giri al magistrato municipale per l'oggetto indicato.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 5. Realizzato tale cumulo, resti abolito l'aumento suddetto di tari 6 sul macino: e quanto ai sopravanzì si impieghino tutti per il destino fissato nel consiglio del 1648, quello cioè di andarsi estinguendo i capitali delle soggiogazioni sulla città di Palermo.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 6. All' oggetto poi che un tale cumulo fosse sempre esistente nella divisata somma di onze 200,000, e non dovesse in altro uso impiegarsi che nella compra in tempo opportuno de' grani per potersi acquistare a prezzo discreto, stabilisce il Parlamento, che il magistrato municipale a cui, a tenore della nuova Costituzione, sarà affidata la cura dell' annona, panizzando a costo, e spese, debba andare rimettendo nella cassa della colonna annonaria, per come va smaltendo, tutta quella somma che è stata presa per l'acquisto de' grani suddetti.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 7. Se nel tempo che dovrà scorrere sino al totale incasso della onze 200,000, erederà il magistrato municipale valersi di qualche somma per l'oggetto sopra indicato, il Parlamento l'autorizza a ciò fare, ma colla condizione di sopra espressa.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 8. In tutti gli altri casi però, non potrà giammai prendersi somma veruna dalla cassa della suddetta colonna, anche in quei di peste, alluvione, tremuoto ed incendio, nei quali stabilisce il Parlamento che il magistrato municipale della città di Palermo debba altronde provvedere ed occorrere ai pressanti bisogni, dovendo sempre la stabilita colonna restare esistente.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 9. Il riferito magistrato municipale curerà che nei libri di scrittura di sua dipendenza si apra un conto appartente sotto la rubrica di "Colonna Annonaria." Sarà sua particolare incumbenza tal esatta esecuzione di quanto è stato prescritto dal Parlamento su tale assunto, non meno che dal consiglio civico, di cui dovrà restar ferma la solidale responsabilità col detto magistrato municipale, perchè non si consumi la riferita colonna annonaria e non s'impieghi se non nell' oggetto espresso.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 10. Alla fine poi d'ogni anno debba il magistrato municipale presentare al consiglio civico il conto di tale amministrazione e darlo alle stampe per la pubblica intelligenza.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 11. Il consiglio civico poi conformemente a quanto si è detto nel capitolo primo dei Consigli Civici, deputando cinque de' suoi membri, farà esaminare siffatto conto, acciò fattone ad esso il rapporto ne passi all' approvazione o disapprovazione.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 12. In questo secondo caso i cinque membri surriferiti proporranno le loro querele presso i tribunali ordinari a carico di coloro che avranno mancato al loro dovere.

Placet Regia Majestati.

ISTRUZIONI

 *Riguardanti l'Articolo Nono del Potere Legislativo, per le forme della elezione dei Rappresentanti alla Camera dei Comuni.*

No. 1. Sanzionato ebe sarà il Capitolo nono del Potere Legislativo, sarà dovere del capitano di ciascun villaggio, terra o città, di far pubblicare per mezzo di affisi, ehe qualunque persona, la quale giustificherà al capitano del comune ed a tre de' membri del consiglio civico di avere un' annua rendita netta di nnze 18, potrà dare il suo voto per la elezione del deputato o deputati di quel comune e di quelli del distretto.

I detti tre membri del consiglio civico saranno eletti dal medesimo consiglio a voti segreti, appena pubblicato l'ordine della convocazione del Parlamento. Eglino saranno chiamati Squittinatori.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 2. Si eseguirà lo stesso anche da' parrochi curati e dagli arcipreti, ma a bocca, e nelle rispettive chiese e parrocchie.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 3. Si pubblicherà ancora dalle persone addette, nei modi espressati di sopra, la maniera colla quale si farà l'elezione dei deputati mentovati, e le qualità prescritte per questi ultimo.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 4. Il parroco curato, o l'arciprete di ogni villaggio o terra, e i parrochi curati, o arcipreti dei rispettivi quartieri nelle grandi città faranno le liste di tutte quelle persone ehe diranno di avere le qualità requisite per gli elettori, e ne trasmetteranno le copie da loro firmate al capitano e ai tre squittinatori del luogo.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 5. Sarà di privata ispezione dei rispettivi capitani e squittinatori lo esaminare, e verificare gratis se esistano o no nei pretendenti all' elettorato le qualità prescritte per gli elettori e di fare loro anche gratis, verificati i requisiti suddetti, il corrispondente certificato co' suggelli del capitano e del consiglio civico.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 6. Un altro obbligo dei suddetti squittinatori e capitano sarà quello di formare un registro di tutti gli elettori riconosciuti come sopra, munito delle loro firme, di conservarlo nell' archivio del civico consiglio, e di rimetterne le copie da loro sottoscritte ed autenticate coi loro suggelli, al capitano ed ai tre squittinatori del capoluogo.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 7. Il capitano di ogni villaggio, terra o città, ricevuto che avrà l'ordine dal Protomotaro del Regno per l'elezione de' deputati de' comuni, dovrà farlo immediatamente pubblicare da un pubblico banditore. Farà ancora notificare nel modo stesso a tutti gli elettori del comune di presentarsi a lui e ai tre squittinatori nello spazio di tre giorni, per essere da loro riconosciuti ed ottenerne in seguito un contrassegno del loro dritto all' elezione, tanto del deputato o deputati locali, quanto di quelli del distretto.

Farà pubblicare egualmente il luogo, il giorno e l'ora in cui si passerà all' elezione del deputato o deputati del luogo, e che gli elettori terminata che sarà l'elezione dei mentovati deputati, dovranno conferirsi al capoluogo, per dare personalmente o per procura il loro voto, per l'elezione dei deputati del distretto.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 8. Il luogo di quest' adunanza sarà aperto e spazioso, e il giorno d'assegnarsi sarà il quarto, a contare dalla pubblicazione del bando.

Placet Regie Majestati;

Conchè secondo lo spirito del § 3 del Capitolo X del Potere Legislativo, il luogo dovrà essere la Casa Senatoria, o la sala del Civico Consiglio, ad elezione del capitano giustiziare; ed a maggior comodo de' votanti in radunanza duri per il corso di giorni otto, da correre dal giorno della pubblicazione del bando.

No. 9. Pubblicato ehe sarà quanto si è espresso al numero settimo di queste istruzioni, si riunirà il civico consiglio, per passare alla elezione dei squittinatori nel modo espresso nel numero primo.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 10. L'incarico del maestro-notaro sarà quello di scrivere e registrare i voti degli elettori e di fornire i certificati e tutt' altro conveniente agli elettori ed ai deputati.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

No. 11. Cureranno i capitani e i squittinatori di fare il giorno vegnente e ne' susseguenti affissare ne' luoghi pubblici le liste de' nomi dei candidati o sia de' pretendenti a rappresentare nel Parlamento e di trasmettere copie suggellate e da loro firmate al capitano d'arme ed agli squittinatori del capoluogo.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

No. 12. Sarà dovere de' capitani e dei tre squittinatori rispettivi di dare a ciascuno degli elettori due bollettini in istampa suggellati co' suggelli del capitano e del civico consiglio e col nome dell' elettore da un lato.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

No. 13. L'oggetto di provvedere gli elettori di questi bollettini, sarà quello di poter giustificare al capitano e agli squittinatori del comune, e a quelli del distretto al momento che soprantenderanno all' elezione de' deputati, il loro dritto di votare per dette elezioni.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

No. 14. Fatta la elezione del deputato o deputati di ciascun comune, tutti gli elettori si trasferiranno nello spazio di tre giorni al capoluogo rispettivo per eleggere i deputati di quel distretto.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

No. 15. L'elezione de' sopradetti deputati si eseguiranno nel modo che siegue : Presederanno all' elezione dei deputati di ciascun comune il capitano e gli squittinatori e a quella di deputato di distretto, il capitano d'arme e gli squittinatori del capoluogo.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

No. 16. Gli uni e gli altri spettivamente soprantenderanno alla ricezione de' voti che si farà dal maestro-notaro.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

No. 17. Staranno questi a sedere attorno di un tavolino in una tribuna espressamente eretta nel luogo destinato per l'elezione suddetta.

Placet Regiæ Majestati ;

Ma per il corso de' sopradetti otto giorni, con dovere ricevere i voti che mano gli elettori presenteranno, cioè la mattina tre ore prima di mezzo giorno sino al mezzo di, e il dopo pranzo due ore dopo mezzo giorno sino al tramontar del sole.

No. 18. Vi sarà all' oopo sul tavolino suddetto il registro di tutti gli elettori del loro particolare comune.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

No. 19. Il capitano d'arme però, e gli squittinatori de' capiluoghi, che presederanno all' elezione de' deputati de' loro distretti, dovranno avere avanti a loro il registro de' nomi degli elettori di tutti i paesi de' cennati distretti.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

No. 20. Radunati che saranno gli elettori nel luogo prescritto, si ordinerà dal capitano che si desse principio alla votazione.

Stante le modificazioni fatte agli Articoli 8 e 17, Velat Regiæ Majestas.

No. 21. Immediatamente gli elettori avvicinandosi alla tribuna uno dopo l'altro, ciascuno di loro metterà sul tavolino uno de' due bollettini espressati nel numero 12, e pronunzierà ad alta voce e coll' ordine istesso il nome e cognome del candidato da lui prescelto.

Placet Regiæ Majestati ;

Purchè tutto ciò si esegua durante il corso de' giorni otto stabiliti all' Articolo ottavo.

No. 22. Per questa prima volta, in caso che non vi sieno i capitani d'arme, così ne faranno le veci i capitani giustizieri delle città capiluoghi de' distretti.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

No. 23. Il maestro-notaro scriverà i suffragi degli elettori sotto i nomi di quei fra i candidati, che li avranno ottenuti, e assegnerà perciò a ciascuno di questi ultimi una colonnetta nel libro nel quale scriverà i voti.

Placet Regis Majestati.

No. 24. Il tempo della elezione durerà al più tre giorni, e finita che sarà la votazione di ciascun giorno, si sommeranno dal capitano e dagli squittinatori del luogo, i voti che avrà ottenuto qualunque de' candidati. Queste somme si regneranno in vista dai detti capitano e squittinatori.

Placet Regis Majestati.

Perchè il tempo si regoli a norma dell' Articolo ottavo.

No. 25. Spirati i tre giorni si passerà alla numerazione di tutti i voti che avrà ottenuto ciascuno de' candidati nel termine di sopra prescritto, e si darà a ciascuno degli eletti a pluralità di voti, il certificato corrispondente firmato dal capitano, dai squittinatori, e dal maestro-notaro del luogo, ed autenticato co' suggelli del detto capitano e del consiglio civico.

Placet Regis Majestati.

Regolandosi col termine prescritto di giorni otto.

No. 26. Durante l'elezione, o finita la medesima, il maestro-notaro non potrà negare a qualunque de' candidati o degli elettori, copia da lui firmata delle liste de' voti che ha avuti. Questi all' incontro dovranno pagargliene i dritti.

Placet Regis Majestati.

No. 27. Spetterà al capitano di ciascun villaggio, terra o città, l'impedire i disordini e le irregolarità, e il decidere al momento inappellabilmente, qualunque dubbio e lite che potrà nascere nella elezione: resterà però alle parti che si crederanno gravate, terminata che sarà l'elezione, il dritto di appellarsi al Protonotaro, ed in seguito alla Camera de' Comuni, cui apparterrà il decidere se debba o no ricominciarsi l'elezione per i candidati in contestata, e se il di già eletto dovrà rappresentare nella Camera durante la nuova elezione.

Placet Regis Majestati.

No. 28. Tanto i capitani, quanto gli squittinatori non potranno pigliare ingerenza nell' esame dei requisiti stabiliti per i candidati, appartenendo un tale esame, fatta che sarà l'elezione, al Protonotaro, e quindi alla Camera de' Comuni.

Placet Regis Majestati.

No. 29. Tutte le anzidette istruzioni votate e conchiuse, non vadano annesse al corpo delle nuove Costituzione, ma soltanto si consegnino al Protonotaro del Regno, per comunicarle a tutto il regno.

Vetat Regis Majestas.

DECRETO PER LA LIBERTÀ DELLA STAMPA.

§ 1. Ognuno potrà stampare o pubblicare le sue idee senza bisogno di licenza, e senza obbligo di sottoporle ad una precedente revisione, e ciò dal momento che Sua Reale Maestà avrà sanzionato il presente capitolo.

Placet.

§ 2. I soli scritti sopra materie di religione resteranno soggetti alla previa censura degli ordinari ecclesiastici, come si stabilisce nel Concilio di Trento, intendendosi per tali scritti tutti quelli che interamente di proposito trattano dei dogmi e culto della religione Cristiana Cattolica Apostolica Romana, i catechismi Cristiani, e le versioni ed interpretazioni del Nuovo ed Antico Testamento.

Placet;

Ristando soggetti ancora all' istessa censura, tutti gli scritti riguardanti teologia dogmatica e teologia morale, sia che ne trattino direttamente o indirettamente, e ciò si intenda ancora di tutte le opere della natura espressa in questo paragrafo, che si introducono da fuori.

Sarà delitto il pubblicare scritti di qualunque sorta:

§ 1. Che contengono articoli contro la religione Cattolica Apostolica Romana, e contro i buoni costumi;

Placet.

§ 4. II. Nei quali si offenda la persona del Re dichiarata inviolabile;

Placet.

§ 5. III. Nei quali si offenda un individuo della Real Famiglia;

Placet.

§ 6. IV. Che tendessero a distruggere direttamente le basi della Costituzione del 1812, cioè la divisione dei poteri nel modo già sanzionato, per cui il potere legislativo risiede presso il Parlamento diviso in due Camere, l'una de' Pari, l'altra dei Comuni; il potere esecutivo presso il Re ed il potere giudiziario presso i magistrati: che il solo Parlamento abbia il diritto d'imporre le tasse: che i funzionarj pubblici siano ad esso risponsabili, e niuno possa essere arrestato e punito se non conforme alle leggi, e per via di ordini o sentenze dei magistrati ordinarj;

Placet;

Nell' intelligenza che il potere legislativo si intenda nel senso stesso espresso nel § 1 del Cap. I del Potere Legislativo.

§ 7. V. Che promuovano direttamente e a disegno la disobbedienza alle leggi ed ai mandati ed ordini dei magistrati relativi alla esecuzione delle stesse; potendo però ognuno sotto le restrizioni contenute nel presente decreto, manifestare la sua opinione, tanto sulle leggi, quanto su qualunque atto del potere esecutivo o del potere giudiziario;

Placet.

§ 8. VI. Che contengano libelli infamatorj, scritti calunniosi e licenziosi, e contrarj alla decenza pubblica, ne' quali si svelino gl' intrighi ed i segreti scandalosi delle famiglie.

Placet.

§ 9. Colui che incorrerà nel primo dei suddetti delitti sarà condannato alla relegazione da un anno sino a dieci.

Placet;

Nell' intelligenza che le pene proposte dal Parlamento debbano esser valide finchè il nuovo codice non le abbia regolate, e che debbano anche applicarsi a coloro che introducono, vendono, o fanno circolare libri esteri delle condizioni di sopra descritte.

§ 10. Nel secondo sarà condannato alla relegazione da un anno sino a dieci;

Placet, come sopra.

§ 11. Nel terzo sarà condannato alla relegazione da un anno sino a quattro;

Placet, come sopra.

§ 12. Nel quarto sarà condannato alla relegazione da un anno sino a dieci;

Placet, come sopra.

§ 13. Nel quinto sarà condannato alla relegazione da mesi sei ad anni due;

Placet, come sopra.

§ 14. Nel sesto sarà obbligato l'editore al risarcimento dei danni, spese, ed interessi alla parte offesa.

Placet, come sopra.

§ 15. Se la diffamazione sarà calunniosa, sarà condannato come libellista da un anno sino a quattro di relegazione. Se la diffamazione sarà su cose vere, verrà punito colla relegazione da sei mesi sino a due anni, sempre in proporzione della gravità del delitto.

Placet, come sopra.

Lo stampatore sarà obbligato:

§ 16. I. A far firmare dall' autore innanzi a due testimonj, i fogli del manoscritto che dovrà pubblicare, ed avere una piena cognizione di colui dal quale ha ricevuto l'originale;

Placet.

§ 17. II. Apporre il suo nome, il luogo, e l'anno dell' impressione.

Placet.

Con che oltre ai sopradetti doveri, sarà obbligato di presentare una copia di ciascuna opera che stamperà in Segreteria dell' Interno.

§ 18. Non sarà tenuto palesare il nome dell' autore, se non ricercato dal giudice ordinario, a cui ne sarà stata avanzata l'istanza. Mancando a questa giustificazione o tacendo, sarà soggetto alle stesse pene che sono state prescritte per l'autore.

Placet.

§ 19. Colui che falsificherà o ometterà il nome, il luogo, e l'anno della impressione, sarà condannato a pagare onze 200 applicabili ad un' opera pia dello stesso comune.

Placet;

Quantevolte non vi sia complicazione di altri delitti, per li quali sono inflitte le pene di sopra stabilite, a cui pure dovrà esser soggetto.

§ 20. Chiunque è offeso ha diritto di reclamare presso il magistrato ordinario.

Placet.

§ 21. Per tali giudizi si osserverà la forma vigente in regno de' giudizi eriminali.

Placet.

§ 22. Trovatosi l'autore per sentenza colpevole, gli sarà inflitta la pena rapportata di sopra. La gradazione sarà proporzionata alla gravità del delitto da arbitrarsi per ora dal giudicante, finchè il nuovo Codice Criminale fisserà distintamente e la forma de' giudizi, le diverse qualità e gradi de' sopradetti delitti e delle pene, senza puoto allontanarsi da quanto è stato nel presente capitolo prescritto.

Placet.

§ 23. Sotto il nome di autore verrà compreso anche l'editore, o colui che avrà consegnato allo stampatore il manoscritto originale in mancanza dell' autore.

Placet.

§ 24. Per le opere che trattano di materie di religione, benchè siasi precedentemente stabilito, che non possano stamparsi senza previo permesso dell' ordinario vescovo, in caso di negativa del medesimo, l'interessato potrà gravarsi presso il metropolitano; ed essendo questi ordinario, la seconda istanza sarà prodotta innanzi al giudice della monarchia; la terza istanza in circostanza di difforme parere sarà avanzata nel primo caso al giudice della monarchia, nel secondo al tribunale di appello competente.

Placet.

§ 25. Per la revisione da farsi dai vescovi per i libri di religione non si intenderà pregiudizio alcuno indotto ai diritti di regalìa ed alle preminenze della Monarchia di Sicilia.

Placet;

Con che tali libri si dovranno presentare ancora a quel magistrato che destinerà il potere esecutivo per tale revisione.

PER LA SUCCESSIONE AL TRONO DEL REGNO DI SICILIA.

Il Parlamento, persuaso che la base di ogni costituzione in qualunque regno non elettivo è fondata nello stabilire prima l'ordine e i diritti all' asuccessione della Corona, animato dalla speranza di vedere questo regno felice sotto gli auspici dei discendenti della Maestà Vostra; rispettando i sovrani decreti, e quanto fu stabilito dal magnanimo genitore della Maestà Vostra riguardante l'ordine di detta successione, viene col più profondo rispetto a sommettere i seguenti articoli, su i quali prega e supplica la Maestà Vostra volere accordare la reale sanzione.

§ 1. I. La Monarchia di Sicilia sarà sempre ereditaria.

Placet.

§ 2. II. La successione al trono sarà conservata nell' attuale ramo della famiglia Borbone oggi regnante in Sicilia, e sarà stabilita con quelle leggi qui appresso espresse, analoghe e conformi alla saggia disposizione dell' augusto e magnanimo padre del nostro Monarca.

Placet.

§ 3. La successione si deve regolare a forma di primogenitura col diritto di rappresentazione nella discendenza maschile di maschio.

Placet.

4. Fra questi discendenti però si stabilisce, che dovranno regnare discendenti maschi di maschio della linea mascolina, e non le femine.

Placet.

§ 5. Fra i maschi si dovrà succedere con diritto di primogenitura.

Placet.

§ 6. Questi dovranno succedere con diritto di rappresentazione, per cui qualunque primogenito comechè premorto trasmette ai suoi discendenti abili il suo diritto, come acquistato dal momento della nascita: onde è che il nipote si preferisce allo zio in forza di questo diritto di successione.

Placet.

§ 7. Se mai il regnante della linea retta venisse a mancare senza figli maschi, la successione sarà dovuta al primogenito maschio di maschio della linea prossima, sia fratello, o sia patrino, o in maggior distanza, purchè però sia primogenito nella sua linea, e sia nel ramo che prossimamente si distacca, o si è distaccato dalla linea retta primogeniale.

Placet.

§ 8. Estinti tutti i maschi di maschio della di lei discendenza, e de' di lui fratelli, dovrà succedere quella femina del sangue e dell'agnazione che al tempo della mancanza sia vivente, la quale fosse la prossima; osservandosi sempre lo stesso ordine della primogenitura e della rappresentanza stabilita ne' maschi.

Placet.

§ 9. Qualora l'ultima erede fosse maritata, e che venisse a premorire al marito senza lasciare alcun figlio o figlia, in questo caso viene immediatamente a cessare il diritto di regnare in persona del marito; ed il Parlamento resterà in libertà di eleggerlo come Re, o di chiamare un altro Principe al Trono di Sicilia.

Placet.

§ 10. In caso il marito premorisse alla moglie ultima erede, e che lasciasse un successore, qualora detta ultima erede passasse a seconde nozze sarà detto successore sotto la tutela del Parlamento, o sia delle persone che il medesimo eleggerà per tutori.

Placet.

§ 11. III. Tutte le quistioni o dubbj di qualunque sorta riguardanti l'attuale stabilimento di successione saranno decisi dal Parlamento.

Placet;

Ma sempre con la real sanzione.

§ 12. IV. Riguardando tutti i legami di famiglia, i diritti alla successione, e le pretese che potranno nascere, tutti i matrimoni che si contratteranno dal Re o dai suoi figli o figlie e successori, dovranno essere conosciuti ed approvati dal Parlamento.

Veto.

Ma gl'individui della Famiglia Reale non potranno contrarre alcun matrimonio senza il consenso del Re, salvo il caso che giunti essi all'età di 25 anni, e non avendo potuto ottenere tale consenso pei loro matrimoni in un anno dopo la domanda, e non essendosi opposte nello stesso tempo le due Camere del Parlamento (che è il solo caso in cui esse vi si potrebbero opporre) sieno allora in piena libertà di maritarsi con chi, e come vogliono.

§ 13. V. In mancanza di legittimi eredi e successori, la nazione avrà il diritto di scegliere il suo Re, il quale dovrà regnare con quelle condizioni che saranno prescritte dalla medesima.

Placet.

§ 14. Se la nazione sarà obbligata a fare la scelta del suo Re fra i Principi stranieri, non dovrà giammai eleggere un Sovrano di on' altra nazione, ma sempre un Principe ultragenito che non avesse sovranità alcuna in altro paese e che dal primo giorno della sua elezione stabilir deve la sua residenza in Sicilia; deve però essere inamancabilmente di una Famiglia Reale.

Placet.

§ 15. VI. Il Re di Sicilia non potrà per qualunque siasi cagione allontanarsi dal regno senza il consenso del Parlamento. Ogni Re che abbandonasse il regno senza il detto con-

sensò o che prolungasse la sua dimora fuori dell' isola al di là del tempo accordatogli dal Parlamento, non avrà più diritto a regnare in Sicilia, e da quel momento salirà al trono o il suo successore, se ne avrà, o la nazione eleggerà il suo nuovo Re.

Veto

In quanto alla facoltà di allontanarsi, dovendosi in quel caso unicamente stabilire con il consenso del Parlamento da chi e con quali condizioni nella sua assenza dovranno esercitarsi le facoltà dategli dalla Costituzione.

§ 16. VII. Il Re non potrà mai o per trattato o per successione ad un altro regno, rinunziare o cedere a quello di Sicilia o in tutto o in parte, con disporre in favore di qualche altro Principe che non sia l'erede immediato: in un tal caso ogni atto che farà, sarà nullo, e la nazione non sarà tenuta a riconoscere la volontà del Re.

Placet.

§ 17. VIII. Se il Re di Sicilia riacquisterà il Regno di Napoli, o acquisterà qualunque altro regno, dovrà mandarvi a regnare il suo figlio primogenito, o lasciare detto suo figlio in Sicilia con cedergli il regno; dichiarandosi da oggi innanzi il detto Regno di Sicilia indipendente da quello di Napoli e da qualunque altro regno o provincia.

Placet

Per l'indipendenza; tutto il dippiù resta a stabilirsi dal Re e dal suo primogenito, alla pace generale che della loro famiglia debba regnarvi.

§ 18. IX. Alla morte del Re l'immediato successore di proprio diritto assumerà il governo del regno.

Placet.

§ 19. Egli però dovrà nel corso al più di due mesi, farsi riconoscere dal Parlamento.

Placet.

§ 20. X. Ogni Re o Regina erede, dal momento che sarà riconosciuto o riconosciuta, dovrà prestare il giuramento solenne nel Duomo di Palermo e in mano dell' Arcivescovo nella forma che segue:

Placet.

• § 21. "Noi, &c., Re, o Regina di Sicilia, promettiamo e giuriamo sopra la Croce di nostro Signore Gesù Cristo, e sopra li quattro Evangelii, di volere osservare e fare osservare la religione Cattolica Apostolica Romana, di volere osservare, e rispettare e fare osservare e rispettare la Costituzione di questo Regno di Sicilia, e tutte quelle leggi fatte e che si faranno dal Parlamento, &c. Giuriamo e promettiamo sopra la detta Santa Croce, di non volere mai attentare a cosa alcuna che sia contro le leggi stabilite dal Parlamento, nè contro la felicità de' nostri sudditi," &c.

Placet.

Con che le leggi fatte e che si faranno dal Parlamento si intende che debbano esser quelle che hanno di già meritata la Real Sanzione, o che potranno in seguito meritarsela.

§ 22. Il Parlamento poi presterà nello stesso tempo il seguente giuramento:

"La nazione da noi rappresentata dichiara di riconoscere nella persona di, &c., il suo vero e legittimo Re, o Regina, costituzionale, e nello stesso tempo promette e giura sopra la Croce di nostro Signore Gesù Cristo, e sopra li quattro Evangelii, di volerlo mantenere in tutti quei diritti che gli accorda la Costituzione."

Placet.

§ 23. XI. La maggioranza del Re sarà fissata all' età di anni 18; durante la sua minorità il Parlamento sceglierà una Reggenza, e stabilirà le restrizioni con le quali la Reggenza dovrà esercitare l'autorità reale.

Placet;

Rimanendo al Re la facoltà di raccomandare al Parlamento quei soggetti che giudicherà i più idonei al buon governo del regno ed alla perfetta educazione del successore.

§ 24. XII. Qualora il Re fosse incapace di esercitare l'autorità reale per infermità di mente o per altro difetto, il Parlamento dovrà eleggere una Reggenza, come si è detto all' Articolo XI, finchè durerà la sopraddetta incapacità.

Placet

Nel solo caso di demenza.

§ 25. XIII. Dopo la morte del Re o Regina erede, se il Parlamento si trovi convocato, dovrà prolungare le sue sedute per altri mesi sei. Se il Parlamento si troverà prorogato, dovrà subito riunirsi da se. Se però non vi sarà Parlamento esistente per essere stato sciolto dal difunto Re, i membri dell'ultimo Parlamento si uniranno da loro e formeranno un nuovo Parlamento.

Placet.

§ 26. Il sopradetto Parlamento, qualora il successore fosse di minor età, eleggerà una Reggenza, come si è detto all'Articolo XI; farà la ricerca, correggerà e riformerà, più esattamente che in ogni altro tempo, tutti gli abusi che si fossero potuti introdurre durante il regno precedente; e ciò ad oggetto di condurre la Costituzione ai suoi veri principj; e finalmente per provvedere ad ogni altro bisogno dello Stato.

Placet, come al § 23.

§ 27. XIV. Se alla morte del Re vi fosse il successore di maggior età, potrà dopo essere stato riconosciuto dal Parlamento, scioglierlo, ma dovrà convocarlo immediatamente colla nuova formazione della Camera de' Comuni.

Placet.

§ 28. In mancanza di eredi o successori, il Parlamento che si prolungherà o quello che si riunirà, dovrà subito occuparsi nella scelta del nuovo Re.

Placet.

DELLA LIBERTÀ, DIRITTI, E DOVERI DEL CITTADINO.

CAPITOLO I.

Ogni cittadino Siciliano avrà la facoltà illimitata di parlare su qualsiasi oggetto politico, lagnarsi delle ingiustizie fattegli senza aver riguardo dai magistrati alle denunce delle spie, e senza potere essere castigato per qualunque cosa si è fatto lecito di dire. Sarà però punito severamente colui il quale sarà convinto di avere promosso complotti sediziosi.

Placet;

Regolandosi di restare anche vietati tutti quei discorsi su gli Articoli che dal § 1 sino al 6 della libertà della stampa vengono proibiti; e proibito ancora tutto ciò che tenda a promuovere complotti o sedizioni popolari.

CAP. II. Ogni cittadino Siciliano avrà il diritto di resistenza contro qualunque che senza essere autorizzato dalla legge, volesse usarli violenza, o con la forza, o con le minacce, o volesse procedere colla supposta personale autorità, cosicchè non si riconosca un magistrato altro diritto che quello che la legge loro concede.

Placet;

Ma nel senso che resta prescritto nei § 25, 26, 27 del Capitolo I del Potere Giudiziario.

CAP. III. Un cittadino Siciliano di qualunque classe sia, non potrà esercitare più di due impieghi pubblici lucrativi, dovendosi impedire la molteplicità delle cariche nello stesso soggetto.

Placet;

Intendendosi da oggi innanti, e non già per quelli cittadini che li possiedono attualmente.

CAP. IV. La legge non dovendo stabilire se non pene schiettamente, ed evidentemente necessarie, nessun cittadino Siciliano potrà essere punito se non in virtù di una legge stabilita, promulgata antecedentemente al delitto, ed applicata legalmente.

Placet;

Con che restino ferme le attuali leggi vigenti sino alla compilazione del nuovo Codice.

CAP. V. Ogni proprietario sarà libero di tenere delle cacce nei propri fondi, purchè li giri di mura di fabbriche, alte palmi 8 almeno.

Placet;

Intendendosi per le cacce di cignali, cervi, daini e capri, ad esclusione però delle terre che si possiedono da Sua Real Maestà sotto qualunque titolo; e però il dipan

restando in osservanza il capitolo del Re Giacomo, trascritto nel qoi appresso Cap. VI, e restando anche in facoltà di ognuno guardarsi la caccia minuta nei propri fondi a seconda della legge vigente, e con quelle modificazioni che potrà farvi il nuovo Codice.

CAP. VI. Nelle terre de' particolari non potranno da oggi innanzi esservi riserve, o cacce reali, o di altri principi o signori, dovendosi riputare dette riserve o cacce contrarie al diritto sacro della proprietà. Quanto a detta riserva si rinvigorisca e si osservi il capitolo 28 del Re Giacomo espresso ne' seguenti sensi:

“Culla maggior severità proibiamo che dall' altezza nostra, dai magistrati o ufficiali della nostra curia, o de altri chicchessia non si facciano delle foreste (ovvero bandite) nelle terre de' privati. E che per ragione di cotali foreste dalla nostra curia e dai soprantendenti e custodi delle foreste istesse alcuno non si molesti nella coltivazione e raccolta de' frutti delle sue terre, e danoio ed ingiustizia alcuna non gli si cagioni.”

Place;

Da principiare dopo la fine di Luglio, per trovarsi terminata la raccolta.

CAP. VII. § 1. Nè l'erario, nè le chiese nè le comonità, nè qualunque altra corporazione o persona privilegiata potranno reclamare o godere alcuna prerogativa, privilegio, e distinzione nelle loro cause di ogni sorta, giacchè in queste si dovrà sempre procedere e dovranno le medesime essere sempre trattate e giudicate, come quelle di tutti gli particolari senza distinzione alcuna.

Ci riserviamo di manifestare il nostro Real animo su di questo e dei quattro seguenti paragrafi di questo capitolo, tostochè gli articoli in essi paragrafi contenuti saranno pienamente definiti e delucidati dal nuovo Codice, che dovrà in ciò uniformarsi alla Costituzione Inglese, e principalmente per quanto riguarda i privilegi dell'erario.

§ 2. Resta abolita del pari la così detta mano fiscale, e rvocato ancora qualunque privilegio che il fisco dell'erario ha goduto finora, derogando in conseguenza il Parlamento qualunque legge o statuto che venisse in opposizione alla presente abolizione; e particolarmente annulla quanto su tal particolare trovasi stabilito nella Prammatica X tit. II *de Officio Magistratorum*, §§ 22 nella Prammatica VII, titolo III, *de Officio Conservatoris Regii Patrimonii*, e nella Prammatica unica, titolo X, *de Officio Proceptorum*, § 16.

§ 3. Cosicchè i procuratori ed avvocati dell'erario non potranno giammai invadere i beni di qualsivoglia comune o corporazione, o di qualunque particolare, senza il precedente decreto di giustizia, o la formale sentenza del giudice o magistrato a cui si apparterrà giusta la presente Costituzione; come neppure potranno occupare gli altrui beni di propria autorità priachè ne avessero dalle sentenze dei giudici o magistrati anadetti ottenuto il titolo legittimo.

§ 4. Finalmente il fisco non potrà più godere oelle locazioni di quibiroglia cespite, e fondo della così detta addizione *in diem*, nè restituzione alcuna, non ostante qualunque privilegio o consuetudine; a qual oggetto deroga il Parlamento qualunque legge o statuto che vi si potesse opporre.

§ 5. Per le chiese, comonità, e qualunque altra corporazione o persona finora riguardata come privilegiata e resistibile, il nuovo Codice Civile fisserà i necessari provvedimenti analoghi.

CAP. VIII. Ogni cittadino Siciliano sarà riputato come facendo parte del potere legislativo direttamente o indirettamente, e come tale non riconoscerà altre autorità che quelle stabilite dalla legge.

Veto

Per la prima parte; *Place* riguardo a non riconoscere altre autorità che quelle stabilite dalla legge.

CAP. IX. Ogni cittadino Siciliano sarà in dovere di conoscere la Costituzione del regno e tutte le leggi che la compongono; così sarà obbligo dei parrochi e de' magistrati municipali l'istruire della Costituzione del 1812, tutti coloro che appartengono ai loro quartieri ed al loro comune; come e qualmente sarà dovere delle Università e delle scuole pubbliche e private il leggere due volte l'anno la Costituzione.

Place.

CAP. X. Ogni Siciliano per potere avere parte diretta o indiretta alla formazione della legge dovrà sapere leggere e scrivere; e così nel 1830 non sarà permesso ad alcun Siciliano che non sappia leggere, il poter essere elettore.

Place.

CAP. XI. Ogni cittadino Siciliano che da oggi in avanti non avrà cura di vaccinare i figli, non potrà aver parte diretta o indiretta nella formazione della legge, ne potrà essere ammesso nei Consigli Civici.

Ciò sarà rilevato dalla nota che si presenterà dal magistrato municipale.

Veto.

CAP. XII. Ogni Siciliano non potrà ricusarsi ad essere giudice di fatto, menochè fosse impedito per ragion di parentela.

Placet.

CAP. XIII. Ogni Siciliano non potrà prendere servizio sotto altra Potenza senza il permesso del Re; ed ottenendolo, non potrà giammai prendere le armi contro la patria, altrimenti resterà soggetto a quelle pene che stabilirà il nuovo Codice.

Placet.

TITOLO II.

POTERE ESECUTIVO.

CAPITOLO I.

§ 1. Sarà privata del Re il rappresentare la nazione Siciliana presso le Potenze straniere.

Placet.

§ 2. Quella di far la guerra e la pace, quando lo giudicherà; e il proporre o conchiudere qualsivoglia Trattato colle altre Potenze, a condizione però che non ripugni direttamente o indirettamente alla Costituzione del regno.

Placet.

§ 3. Lo stabilire il suo privato Consiglio, il quale verrà composto de quattro Segretari di Stato, e di due almeno dei Consiglieri, senza eccedere il numero di dodici, compresi li suddetti Segretari, che devono esser membri del medesimo durante la loro carica. Del pari l'eleggere tutti quei Consiglieri di Stato che Sua Maestà giudicherà, che dovranno essere Siciliani e persone della più alta fiducia e merito.

Placet;

Nel senso che il Segretario di Affari Esteri e quello dell' Interno, o sia di Grazia e Giustizia, saranno consiglieri nati; per tutti gli altri resterà in facoltà nostra di eleggere chi vorremo, e quanti ne vorremo; come del pari sarà del nostro arbitrio chiamare nel Consiglio quei consiglieri che vorremo, e quanti ne vorremo.

§ 4. Sarà la Maestà Sua tenuta di consultare in tutti gli affari più gravi un tale Consiglio, e specialmente in quelli appartenenti alla dichiarazione della guerra, alla conclusione della pace, ed allo stabilimento de' trattati colle Potenze estere.

Placet.

§ 5. Il Parlamento avrà sempre il diritto di domandar conto e ragione di qualunque atto del Potere Esecutivo, di processare e punire i Ministri e i membri del Consiglio, quantovoltè li troverà contrari alle prerogative ed agl' interessi della nazione.

Placet.

§ 6. Apparterrà a Sua Real Maestà l'eleggere fra i soli Siciliani i quattro Segretari di Stato e i rispettivi direttori delle reali segreterie per impiegargli ne' diversi dipartimenti ad elezione della Maestà Sua, come pure l'eleggere fra i soli Siciliani gl' impiegati subalterni.

Placet

Per l'avvenire, ma non già per gli attuali impiegati.

§ 7. L'onorare quei che ne saranno degni, delle solite cariche e dignità di Corte, degli ordini equestri, delle legali, e consuete onorificenze e titoli di nobiltà.

Placet;

Restando però a nostro arbitrio creare quante altre nuove cariche di Corte vorremo, e conferire o erare tutte quelle onorificenze che ci piacerà.

§ 8. Il dare col consenso del Parlamento gratificazioni o pensioni a coloro che per utili servizi prestati allo Stato, si saranno resi benemeriti alla patria.

Placet.

§ 9. Il coniare moneta, senza poterne però alterare il peso ed il titolo, o sia valore intrinseco, se non previo il consenso del Parlamento.

Placet;

Restando ancora in facoltà nostra sospendere il corso di quella moneta, che non giudicheremo conveniente, e di permettere l'introduzione di monete estere, con fissarne il valore in proporzione della moneta del regno.

§ 10. Il regolare e comandare le forze tutte di terra e di mare di Sicilia; talchè il Re dovrà sempre considerarsi come il loro Generalissimo.

Placet.

§ 11. Il conferire tutti i benefici ecclesiastici detti di regio padronato, tutti i gradi militari, tutte le magistrature civili e criminali ai soli Siciliani, e le commissioni che sarà necessario di dare in esecuzione degli atti del Parlamento.

Placet.

Ma con tutte le altre provviste e nomine ecclesiastiche solite farsi finora da Sua Maestà.

§ 12. L'erigere col consenso del Parlamento novelle corporazioni, ed autorizzarne con diplomi l'istituto e i regolamenti.

Placet.

§ 13. Il sovrintendere al commercio interno ed esterno della nazione, ed a tutte le opere ed istituzioni pubbliche, come strade, poste, ponti, canali, porti, carceri, collegi, a tenore però sempre delle determinazioni del Parlamento da Sua Maestà sanzionate.

Placet.

§ 14. Il far grazia, o alleggerire o commutare la pena stabilita ai colpevoli con sentenza, in quei casi però soltanto, ne' quali l'azione contro il reo sarà di privata natura, e si sarà compensato il danno o l'interesse della parte offesa, come più diffusamente si spiegherà nel nuovo Codice Criminale.

Placet;

E far grazie ancora per tutti quei delitti pubblici che non sono in opposizione alla Costituzione.

§ 15. Il curare che i Ministri e generalmente gli amministratori tutti delle cose pubbliche adempiano i loro doveri; il domandar conto e prendere informazione della loro condotta; l'ammonire quelli, che con poca lode si esporteranno ne' loro uffici; ed il punire quelli altri che a tenere delle leggi saranno convioti rei, per mezzo delle autorità e de' magistrati competenti.

Placet.

§ 16. Il far eseguire le sentenze che saranno a tenore delle leggi pronunziate dalle autorità e magistrati competenti.

Placet.

§ 17. Sia abolito il sistema di ecclittiche che oggi si osserva nelle reali segreterie di Stato, per mezzo delle quali interferendosi da' Ministri nelle pendenze giudiziarie de' particolari, si verrebbe ad attaccare l'indipendenza del potere giudiziario, già sanzionata da Sua Maestà; quindi si stabilisce che non s'intende in virtù di questo articolo autorizzato verun Ministro a prender parte nelle pendenze giudiziarie de' particolari introdotte innanzi a' differenti magistrati.

Placet;

Menochè per l'esecuzione di ciò che resta stabilito nel § 15 di questo stesso Capitolo.

§ 18. Il Re eserciterà queste alte incumbenze per mezzo de' suoi rispettivi Segretari di Stato, che ne saranno sempre responsabili al Parlamento, nè valga a questi, per iscusare la loro colpa, l'allegare qualunque ordine di Sua Real Maestà.

Placet.

§ 19. Il Parlamento poi ritiene per qualunque atto del Potere Esecutivo, il diritto di far delle petizioni e rimonstranze, e Sua Real Maestà dovrà sempre prenderle nella dovuta considerazione.

Placet.

CAPITOLO II.

§ 1. Non ostante l'eminente dignità che ha il Re di Generalissimo, non potrà egli introdurre nè tenere in Sicilia, altre truppe e forze qualunque di terra e di mare, se non quelle per le quali ne avrà ottenuto il consenso dal Parlamento.

Placet;

Salve le truppe estere, per le quali trovansi stipolati dei trattati.

§ 2. Sua Real Maestà non potrà giammai obbligare alcun Siciliano a servire nelle reali forze di terra e di mare.

Placet;

Meocchè in quei casi nei quali vi sarà il consenso del Parlamento.

CAPITOLO III.

§ 1. Apparterrà a Sua Real Maestà l'amministrazione della rendita nazionale e dei beni di ogni sorta, per mezzo del Ministro e del Consiglio delle Finanze, con quelle condizioni che si diranno.

Placet,

Con le condizioni e modificazioni apposte ai seguenti paragrafi.

§ 2. Restano quindi soppressi la Deputazione del Regno ed il Tribunale del Real Patrimonio, con tutte le loro dipendenze.

Placet;

Ma d'aver luogo dal primo Settembre, 1813, beninteso che resteranno per giudicare le cause dell'erario gli attuali Ministri togati e l'attuale avvocato fiscale pel Tribunale del Patrimonio, fintantochè non sarà stabilito e posto in pratica il nuovo piano delle magistrature, nel quale il Parlamento dovrà proporre il modo come stabilire un tribunale per l'erario, a tenore della Costituzione Inglese, onde assicurare il grande oggetto della percezione della pubblica rendita.

§ 3. Il metodo con cui sarà regolata la suddetta amministrazione è il seguente: Dovranno da Sua Real Maestà eleggersi quattro gran camerarj, e porre sotto la direzione e dipendenza del Ministro di Finanze.

Placet.

§ 4. La durata della carica di essi gran camerarj sarà amovibile ad arbitrio di Sua Real Maestà.

Placet.

§ 5. Dippiù quattro vice-camerarj da eleggersi da Sua Real Maestà.

Placet.

§ 6. La durata della carica de' quattro vice-camerarj sarà amovibile ad arbitrio di Sua Real Maestà.

Placet.

§ 7. Un tesoriere generale.

Placet.

§ 8. Un conservadore generale.

Placet.

§ 9. Un avvocato.

Placet.

§ 10. Un procuradore generale dell'erario.

Placet.

§ 11. Ventitrè segreti.

Placet.

§ 12. Ventitrè pro conservadori.

Placet.

§ 13. Un pro-segretario in ciascuna delle isole adiacenti, ed in ciascuna popolazione che non sia capitale di distretto.

Placet;

Con che il Parlamento dovrà per i sopraddetti impiegati stabilire le rispettive preeminenze e facultà per la facile percezione della rendita pubblica.

§ 14. La durata di questi ufficiali sarà perpetua, ma amovibile per delitto, o per mancanza in officio, o per qualunque altra causa benivista al Ministro delle Finanze.

Placet;

Con che s'intendano i sopraddetti impiegati ugualmente di nostra elezione, ed amovibili a nostro arbitrio: e che tutti gli impiegati descritti in tutti i paragrafi del presente Capitolo debbano godere di tutte le preeminenze e facultà che godono a seconda della Costituzione d'Inghilterra gli impiega i per l'erario.

§ 15. Due gran-camerarj avranno per ognuno assegnati otto distretti; il terzo ne avrà sette, e le isole adiacenti per amministrarvi rispettivamente la rendita pubblica.

Placet;

Ma con quella facoltà e poteri per essi e loro dipendenti, ehe sinora ha goduto il fisco nella parte amministrativa, s'intantochè il nuovo Codice ne avrà fissate le giurisdizioni e facoltà, in conformità della Costituzione Inglese.

§ 16. Il quarto poi sarà solamente incaricato di soddisfare i creditori dello Stato, come sono i tandisti, assegnatarj, ereditori della rendita dei milioni, e simili.

Placet.

§ 17. Tutti gli altri cespiti e beni nazionali che non cadono sotto i ripartimenti de' distretti, saranno similmente distribuiti dal Ministro delle Finanze fra i quattro gran-camerarj.

Placet.

§ 18. Ogni gran-camerario avrà sotto di lui un vice-camerario, per assisterlo nelle sue differenti incumbenze.

Placet.

§ 19. Il Consiglio di Finanze sarà composto dai quattro gran-camerarj, presiedendovi il Segretario di Stato delle Finanze. Uno de' vice-camerarj v'interrà in giro in qualità di segretario. Un tale consiglio si adunerà regolarmente due volte la settimana.

Placet.

§ 20. Per qualunque sua risoluzione, ed operazione sarà insieme col Ministro delle Finanze responsabile al Parlamento, e punibile dallo stesso.

Placet.

§ 21. Il tesoriere generale sarà il cassiere dello Stato, e terrà per via de' suoi uffiziali la scrittura di cassa.

Placet.

§ 22. In di lui nome si riceveranno e si pagheranno tutte le somme per conto dello Stato medesimo.

Placet.

§ 24. Il conservatore generale co' suoi uffiziali terrà la scrittura di tutti g' introiti ed esiti dell' erario, e ne presenterà regolarmente il bilancio in ogni quindici giorni al Ministro e Consiglio delle Finanze.

Placet.

§ 24. L'avvocato ed il procuratore generale dell' erario maneggeranno tutti i negozj litigiosi dell' erario stesso presso i magistrati ordinarj.

Placet;

Ma presso quel magistrato ehe verrà dal Parlamento stabilito, e con che ritengano le preminenze e giurisdizioni che finora hanno goduto, s'intantochè il nuovo Codice non le modellerà a seconda della Costituzione Inglese.

§ 25. Si stabiliranno simili avvocati e procuratori ne' differenti distretti preaso i segreti quante volte saranno necessarij.

Placet,

Con la riserva di sopra.

§ 26. I segreti de' distretti sotto gli ordini dei gran-camerarj amministreranno e riscuoteranno tutti g' introiti dell' erario de' loro rispettivi distretti. In ogni mese per mezzo delle compagnie d'arme trasmetteranno al tesoriere generale le somme da loro riscosse.

Placet;

Restando in facoltà del Ministro di Finanze di usare tutti gli altri mezzi che crederà opportuni.

§ 27. I pro-conservadori faranno ne' distretti lo stesso officio che il conservadore generale di Palermo.

Placet.

§ 28. I pro-segreti nelle isole adiacenti avranno lo stesso incarico ehe i segreti ne' loro distretti.

Placet.

§ 29. I pro-segreti delle popolazioni di ogni distretto saranno immediatamente soggetti ai segreti del distretto medesimo, e riscuoteranno e trasmetteranno ai rispettivi segreti i proventi nazionali esistenti ne' territorj delle stesse popolazioni.

Placet.

§ 30. Ogni pagamento che si farà all' erario dovrà farsi per via de' banchi Palermo e di Messina.

Placet.

§ 31. Tutti i surriferiti pubblici funzionarj non avranno soldi fissi, ma il cinque per cento sopra tutte le somme che riscuoteranno e faranno passare nell' erario, da ripartirsi secondo il rango e le fatiche di ognuno, in quella proporzione che a proposta del Ministro delle Finanze stabilirà il Parlamento.

Placet

Per il cinque per cento; ma con quella ripartizione che giudicheremo di stabilire.

§ 32. Siccome in forza de' sopradetti decreti devonsi riunire insieme diversi archivi ed uffici, ed abbisognano molti minuti regolamenti per la conveniente organizzazione di tutte le parti della nuova amministrazione delle finanze; così il Segretario di Stato delle Finanze farà un completo piano relativo a tutti i sopradetti oggetti, e poi lo sottoporrà al prossimo futuro Parlamento, per approvarlo o per farvi quei cambiamenti che eredrà opportuni.

Appartenendo ciò al potere esecutivo, faremo quegli stabilimenti che crederemo più confacenti alla buona amministrazione delle finanze.

CAPITOLO IV.

§ 1. I libri della reale conservatoria dovranno essere pubblici, siccome quelli di qualunque notaio del regno.

Placet;

Precedendo il permesso del gran-camerario del dipartimento, e con quelle regole che si osservano dai notai presentemente, per le quali intendiamo che non debbasi fare novità.

§ 2. Il Ministro delle Finanze sarà tenuto di presentare ogn' anno al Parlamento, il dettagliato conto di tutti gl' introiti ed esiti dell' erario. Il Parlamento ne' casi di negligenza farà un voto di censura contro il predetto Ministro, ed in quelli d'irregolarità, malversazione o peculato, lo punirà, dovendolo sempre accusare la Camera dei Comuni, e processare e giudicare quella dei signori.

Placet.

§ 3. Tutto ciò che si è detto riguardo al Ministro delle Finanze debba egualmente valere per li quattro gran-camerarj.

Placet.

§ 4. I conti suddetti del Segretario di Stato delle Finanze, prima di essersi presentati al Parlamento, dovranno stamparsi per intelligenza e soddisfazione di tutta la nazione.

Placet.

CAPITOLO V.

§ 1. Non si potrà creare in questo regno alcun nuovo ufficio o carica senza il consenso del Parlamento, dovendo la giustizia, e generalmente la cosa pubblica essere solamente amministrata e distribuita dai magistrati e potestà ordinarie; e non si potrà similmente da oggi in avanti alcun ufficio o carica, nè alienare, nè dare, come si dice in feudo, dovendosi sempre conferire a persone veramente idonee e capaci di ben servire lo Stato.

Placet;

Restando riservata a noi la facoltà di creare quelle cariche ed uffici che giudicheremo parchè sieno senza emolumenti.

§ 2. Per quegli uffici o cariche che attualmente trovansi alienate, potrà il Parlamento ricomprarle, indennizzando i proprietari, con formarvi una rendita corrispondente al fruttato attuale, da stabilirsi con un concorso decennale o dandogli il capitale che corrisponda al risultato del concorso suddetto, ragionandosi al 5 per 100.

Placet;

Con che per quei che si dovranno rimpiazzare e provvedere in futuro, sieno di nostra elezione.

CAPITOLO VI.

§ 1. I benefizii ecclesiastici, gl'impieghi, le dignità, gli uffizii e cariche di qualunque natura senza distinzione ed eccezione alcuna, neppure dell' Arcivescovado di Palermo, e delle commende della religione Gerosolimitana, non potranno nè dovranno mai conferirsi che a' soli Siciliani.

Placet

Per quelli da conferirsi da oggi innanzi.

§ 2. Per Siciliani s'intendono que'li unicamente che sono nati in Sicilia e da padri Siciliani; siccome par quelli che sono nati fuor di Sicilia, ma da padri Siciliani, non divenuti sudditi di straniera Potenza.

Placet;

Intendendosi benanche per Siciliani i figli nati in Sicilia dai forestieri, senzache possano reclamare altra patria.

§ 3. Per ciò che riguarda i gradi militari, qualunque non sia Siciliano non potrà mai essere considerato ne' reggimenti Siciliani.

Placet.

§ 4. Qualora il Parlamento risolvesse mantenere de' reggimenti esteri, allora potranno essere abilitati anche ad occuparvi degli impieghi uffiziali esteri. Questi però, di qualunque classe sia il loro rango, debbano prestare il solenne giuramento all' osservanza della Costituzione.

La forma del giuramento si proporrà in appresso.

Placet;

Con che resti fissato per le truppe estere quanto si è detto al § 1, Capitolo I, di questo titolo; e per il giuramento dovrà prestarsi tanto a noi che alla Costituzione, ei riserbiamo dichiarare il nostro Real animo dopochè ee ne verrà presentata la formola.

§ 5. Ne' corpi facoltativi e nella Real Marina, non potrà essere proposto verun estero. Gli attuali però che sono in tali corpi potranno rimanervi.

Placet.

§ 6. Nell' artiglieria e corpo del Genio dovranno dividersi le compagnie Siciliane ed estere, fintantochè non si formi la intera armata Siciliana, e gli uffiziali esteri non potranno essere impiegati nelle compagnie Siciliane.

Dichiareremo in appresso il nostro Real animo.

§ 7. Da oggi innanzi non potrà essere ammesso ne' corpi facoltativi veruno estero, senza il consenso del Parlamento.

Placet.

§ 8. I governi militari, il comando de' porti, il comando generale delle diverse armi, il comando di piazze, di fortezze, castelli, ed isole, di corpi d'armata, di flotte e flottiglie Siciliane, non potranno averlo uffiziali esteri, senza il consenso del Parlamento.

Placet;

Con che debba ciò aver luogo per gl' impieghi che anderanno e provvedersi da oggi innanzi.

§ 9. E ciò, dal momento che sarà sanzionato il presente capitolo, però ei che riguarda i gradi militari.

Veto.

§ 10. Qualunque forestiere, il quale otterà il privilegio di cittadinanza da qualunque comune del regno, o prenderà per moglie una donna Siciliana, non si renderà per ciò capace di avere in Sicilia pensioni ecclesiastiche, e pubblici office di qualsivisa sorta.

Placet.

§ 11. Le lettere di naturalizzazione, o il dritto della cittadinanza Siciliana potrà accordarsi a forestieri dal solo Parlamento; ma saranno i figliuoli dei naturalizzati, e non già i naturalizzati stessi, quei che potranno conseguire pensioni ecclesiastiche, e pubblici officii, come i Siciliani di origine.

Placet

Per la naturalizzazione; ma per la cittadinanza sarà di nostra facoltà accordarla colle clausole apposte alla sanzione del § 2 di questo capitolo.

TITOLO III. POTERE GIUDIZIARIO.

CAPITOLO I.

La potestà di giudicare sarà nell'applicare le leggi ai casi ed ai fatti tanto nel civile che nel criminale.

§ 1. Risiederà esclusivamente presso quei magistrati a cui sarà conferita.

Placet.

§ 2. Abolite di già tutte le giurisdizioni particolari, ovvero i così detti fori, vi sarà unica potestà giudiziaria residente presso i giudici ordinari, e magistrature stabilite nella presente costituzione, e quindi le cause pendenti non si potranno avocare, anche col rimedio del giusto ricorso al principe, né declinarsi per qualunque privilegio in avanti concesso, né accordarsi restituzione. Resterranno solo gli ordinari rimedi stabiliti da un giudice o tribunale ad un altro, presso de' quali pienamente si eserciterà il potere de' giudizi.

Placet.

Per come all'articolo dell'abolizione de' Fori viene stabilito e con che tutta la potestà giudiziaria sarà esercitata dagli attuali magistrati ordinari finchè non saranno poste in esercizio le nuove magistrature da stabilirsi.

§ 3. Qualunque giudice, tribunale, o magistrato non potrà per qualsivoglia causa prorogare la propria giurisdizione, tanto a dire che non potrà giammai accettare istanza, o ammettere petizione, la cui cognizione appartenga ad altro giudice o magistrato.

Placet.

§ 4. La giustizia sarà da' tribunali amministrata a nome del Re, presso cui risiede il Potere Esecutivo. Gli ordini, provviste, ed esecutorie emanate dai magistrati saranno autorizzate col nome di Sua Rea Maestà.

Placet.

§ 5. Le sentenze, tanto nel civile che nel criminale, per evitare ogni arbitrio ne' giudicanti, dovranno essere ragionate sulla legge del nuovo Codice; ove questa manchi, si dovrà implorare il potere legislativo, che risiede presso il Parlamento.

Placet;

Senzachè il Parlamento prenda cognizione del merito delle cause prodotte in giudizio dai particolari, salvo però quanto resta stabilito nel § 2 del Capitolo XXV del Potere Legislativo.

§ 6. Nelle sentenze si dovrà premettere la legge o l'argomento tirato direttamente dalla stessa, accennare l'azione prodotta coll'applicazione della legge premessa; la conclusione sarà la sentenza, assolvendo o condannando il reo o convento, tanto nel civile che nel criminale.

Pacet.

§ 7. Il nuovo Codice sarà scritto in lingua Italiana, e quindi tutti gli atti giudiziari e le sentenze saranno scritte nella stessa lingua.

Placet.

§ 8. Due sentenze uniformi nelle materie civili faranno cosa giudicata.

Placet.

§ 9. Le materie tutte di fatto ne' giudizi al civili che criminali s'ian decise da un Giuri, per la formazione ed applicazione del qual sistema sulle leggi stabilite in Inghilterra resti interamente incaricato il comitato per la formazione dei Codici Civile e Criminale.

Placet;

Riserbandoci di dichiarar il nostro Rea animo, dopochè avremo esaminato ciò che stabilirà il nuovo Codice su questo punto.

§ 10. Nel criminale ove la sentenza dichiarerà l'accusato innocente, non sarà appellabile; se questa lo condanna, potrà essere riesaminata in quelle forme ed in quei casi che il Codice stabilirà, regolandosi sulle leggi Inglesi.

Placet;

Riserbandoci di esaminare le leggi che si proporranno nel nuovo Codice.

§ 11. Qualunque persona in Sicilia non potrà essere arrestata, detenuta in prigione, relegata fuori Sicilia, obbligata a cambiar domicilio o assoggettita a pena qualunque, se non colle forme prescritte dalle leggi del regno e d'ordine e sentenza di un magistrato ordinario.

Placet;

Con che ciò s'intenda per i soli Siciliani e che resti sempre la facoltà nei Ministri di Stato di ordinare l'arresto di chiunque, purchè prima delle ore ventiquattro rimettano l'arrestato ai magistrati ordinari.

§ 12. Saranno, per qualsiasi causa e persona proibiti tutti gli arresti di ogni sorta per *Alta Economia, de Mandato Principis, &c.*, sotto la pena contro qualunque che praticherà o contribuirà all'esecuzione degli anzidetti e somiglianti atti arbitrari, dello perdita di qualunque pubblico ufficio, di onze 1000 a profitto dell'erario e della relegazione in un' isola di maggiore o minore durata, secondo la gravità della trasgressione.

Placet.

§ 13. Sua Real Maestà non farà giammai grazia per simili delitti.

Placet.

§ 14. I magistrati e i tribunali non potranno procedere per qualunque delitto contro alcun cittadino che per accusa della parte offeso ed interessata. Quindi viene loro proibito di procedere per inquisizione, fuori che nei seguenti qualificati delitti, cioè:

Placet.

§ 15. I. Quello di lesa Maestà divina;

Placet.

§ 16. II. Quello di lesa Maestà umana, che si limita agli attentati contro la Corona del Re nostro Signore e la sua vita o quella di Sua Maestà la Regina, o dei successori al Trono, o del suo Vicario Generale;

Placet;

Con doversi ancora comprendere tutti quei delitti contro la persona del Re e Real Famiglia che verranno stabiliti dal nuovo Codice, a tenore della Costituzione Inglese.

§ 17. III. Quello di sedizione, che comprende l'effettive congiure contro del Governo e della pubblica tranquillità;

Placet.

§ 18. IV. Quello di omicidio;

Placet.

§ 19. V. Quello d'incendio;

Placet.

§ 20. VI. Quello di furto con violenza;

Placet.

§ 21. VII. Quello di falsificazione di moneta o di scrittura.

Placet,

Sia di scritture o di altro, e per tutti quei delitti che sono contrarij alla tranquillità, alla morale e alla fede pubblica, come meglio dovrà divisare il nuovo Codice.

Placet.

§ 22. Per li suddetti delitti potranno i magistrati e tribunali procedere per la via dell'informazione e dell'inquisizione. Non saranno però autorizzati ad arrestare alcuno, se non previ i legali indizj, e le ben fondate presunzioni del di lui reato, locchè sarà largamente definito nel nuovo Codice.

Placet.

§ 23. La forza militare non potrà impiegarsi all'arresto de' rei, che a domanda e sotto la direzione dei magistrati ordinarij.

Placet.

§ 24. Non potrà giammai adoperarsi contro il popolo, che ne' soli casi di sedizione.

Placet.

§ 25. Ogni ufficiale di giustizia per procedere all'arresto di qualunque persona dovrà essere munito di un mandato firmato, ed autorizzato col suggello del giudice o magistrato ordinario, che l'ha incumbenzato, nel quale verrà espresso il nome della persona da carcerarsi, il delitto di cui viene imputato l'accusatore, gl'indizj e le ragioni per le quali è stata ordinata la sua detenzione.

Placet;

Senza però esprimersi gli accusatori o gli indizj.

§ 26. Qualunque opposizione a questi mandati, anche colla fuga, sarà reputata e punita come resistenza diretta alla legge; ed all'incontro qualsivisia atto di resistenza con cui si opporrà un cittadino all'esecuzione dei mandati di arresto, che manchino delle forme già prescritte non sarà punito dalla legge.

Placet.

§ 27. Si eccettuano però i casi in cui, per qualunque dei surriferiti qualificati delitti, un cittadino sia notoriamente colpevole e ritrovato in flagranti, allora potrà essere arrestato senza il suddetto mandato, non solo dagli ufficiali di giustizia, ma ben ancora da qualunque particolare.

Placet.

§ 28. Qualunque arrestato, anche per le di sopra espresse ragioni, dopo ventiquattrore del suo arresto, dovrà aver comunicato il mandato di arresto nel modo e forma di sopra stabilita, e gli sarà fatta nota la causa per cui sta in prigione, la persona che istanza, gli atti e le prove che vi concorrono.

Placet;

Con che resti riserbatu al nuovo Codice le stabilire a seconda del nuovo rito la natura degli atti e delle prove che si dovranno comunicare all'arrestato.

§ 29. I custodi delle prigioni non potranno ricevere alcun cittadino per ordine verbale del giudice o magistrato, senza recuperare questi tali suddetti mandati per la giustificazione della causa per cui il cittadino è detenuto.

Placet.

§ 30. Il giudice o magistrato dovrà, al più tardi fra ventiquattrore, prender conto, e sentire il detenuto, e questi ha il dritto di far decidere dal competente tribunale la legalità della sua detenzione.

Placet.

§ 31. Qualunque arrestato o detenuto condotto innanzi il giudice dovrà essere abilitato a prestare idonea pleggeria e posto in libertà fino alla conclusione della causa; salvo che non si tratti di alcuno dei qualificati delitti.

Placet.

§ 32. Le leggi del nuovo codice dovranno fissare il modo, col quale debbano assicurarsi le persone ed i beni per via di mallevadori a stare in giudizio, e pagare il giudicato, col massimo favore della libertà civile del cittadino, e con classificare le somme proporzionate alla diversa condizione delle persone.

Placet.

§ 33. Le testimonianze contro gli accusati, e inquisiti dovranno essere prese sopra tutto il fatto alla presenza degli accusati o inquisiti medesimi; ed anco di un loro procuratore, al quale sarà permesso di fare ad ogni testimonio le interrogazioni che vorrà, e notare le risposte e deposizioni come meglio sarà stabilito nel nuovo Codice Criminale.

Placet.

§ 34. Sarà vietata a qualunque giudice o magistrato l'uso della tortura nelle procedure criminali di questo regno; saranno in conseguenza proscritti li così detti danmudi, ferri ai piedi e alle mani, ed ogn'altra qualunque servizia che si voglia adoperare contro gli accusati o inquisiti, come quelle, che ingiustamente puniscono i supposti rei prima della sentenza del giudice, ispirano ad una nazione sentimenti di crudeltà, ed espongono spesso gl'innocenti deboli, e sottraggono i robusti delinquenti alla pubblica vendetta delle leggi.

Placet.

5 E

§ 35. Il nuovo Codice fisserà le istruzioni della processora, e li motivi ad inquirere, a carcerare, a costituire, ed a subire i rei, adottandosi la legge dell' *Habeas Corpus*, e li provvedimenti del Codice Criminale Inglese, in quanto permettono gli usi del nostro regno, lo spirito e costume nazionale.

Placet.

§ 36. Quel giudice o magistrato che userà servizie di qualunque sorta contro un detenuto sarà obbligato non solo alla rifazione dei danni, ma ben anche alla perdita della carica, e verrà condannato a quelle pene e multa che largamente fisserà il nuovo Codice Penale.

Placet.

§ 37. Le carceri dovranno essere conformate ad assicurare la persona ne' casi in cui non si trova o non si ammette mallevadore, non mai per a molestare i detenuti.

Placet.

§ 38. Quindi saranno esse pubbliche, autorizzate dalle leggi, salubri e convenevoli alla condizione del detenuto che non deve esser soggetto alla pena, prima che la sentenza del giudice l'abbia dichiarato reo.

Placet.

§ 39. Nel nuovo Codice dovrà fissarsi la durata di ciascuna causa corrispondente alla rispettiva indole. I processi, tanto civili che criminali, saranno formati con brevità, ma nello stesso tempo senza soffocare le necessarie prove, affinchè l'azione e dritto di ognuno abbia sollecito espedimento ed i delitti sieno prontamente puniti.

Placet.

§ 40. Apparterrà ai giudici di pace la cura e la sorveglianza delle pubbliche carceri, sotto l'immediata ispezione del supremo tribunale di cassazione.

Placet.

CAPITOLO II.

Delle qualità de' Giudici e Magistrati.

§ 1. Niuno potrà essere giudice ed occupare alcuna magistratura, se non sia nato Siciliano;

Placet.

§ 2. Se non abbia l'età compiuta di anni 30;

Placet.

§ 3. Se non abbia dato sufficienti prove di probità;

Placet.

§ 4. Se non sia laureato nell' uno e l'altro diritto in una delle due università degli studi di Palermo e di Catania;

Placet.

§ 5. Se non abbia la rendita stessa che il Parlamento ha fissato per essere elettore nella rappresentanza della Camera dei Comuni.

Placet.

§ 6. I giudici e magistrati non potranno esercitare altre funzioni che quelle di giudicare. Sarà loro vietata qualunque altra amministrazione e delegazione.

Placet.

Menochè per i giudici di pace.

§ 7. Sono proibiti di tenere veruna amministrazione o direzione di beoi e famiglie particolari, e molto meno di ricevere soldi dalle stesse.

Placet;

Menochè per i giudici di pace.

§ 8. Non potranno giammai rappresentare, sia alle Reali Segreterie, sia al Parlamento per riforma o sospensione di legge, se non saranno ricercati dal Potere Legislativo.

Placet.

CAPITOLO III.

Dell'abuso del Potere Giudiziario.

§ 1. Qualunque giudice ed intero tribunale sarà sindacabile. Lo saranno ancora tutti gli uffiziali ed impiegati nell'amministrazione della giustizia.

Placet.

§ 2. Gli abusi di autorità daranno azione popolare. Qualunque individuo potrà proporre la sindacatura presso il Parlamento sulla condotta pubblica del giudice e magistrato, nel modo e forma che si stabilirà nel Codice suddetto.

Placet.

§ 3. Qualunque persona offesa od interessata potrà proporre la sua querela in forma al Parlamento, per qualunque contravvenzione alla legge fatta dal giudice e tribunale, sia nel procedere, sia nel decidere, e per qualunque altra colpa nel modo e forma che si stabilirà nel Codice suddetto.

Placet ;

Resinteso che ciò si pratici per mezzo di uno de' membri del Parlamento.

§ 4. In corso della processura sinu alla sentenza definitiva potranno essere sospesi di carica, quando il Parlamento lo giudicherà.

Placet.

§ 5. Potranno dopo la sentenza essere assolutamente rimossi dalla carica, per un delitto legalmente giudicato, ed assoggettiti inoltre a tutte quelle altre pene che saranno proporzionate nel nuovo Codice.

Placet.

§ 6. I tribunali non potranno conoscere nè giudicare le cause attive de' Segretarj di Stato, per lo dipartimento de' quali sono nominati.

• Vela ;

Stante la responsabilità dei giudici.

ABOLIZIONE DE' FORI.

§ 1. Aboliti i feudi e tutte le preeminenze e giurisdizioni feudali (come si disse all' Articolo XII, già da Sua Real Maestà sanzionato), la giustizia sarà uniformemente amministrata in tutti i luoghi di Sicilia dalle medesime potestà giudiziarie elette ed autorizzate da Sua Real Maestà, secondo il nuovo piano da stabilirsi dal Parlamento.

Placet ;

Ma in conformità del piano di magistrature da stabilirsi, e colle preeminenze da fissarsi per l'erario.

§ 2. Saranno abolite in questo regno le delegazioni e commesse, le private giurisdizioni giudiziarie, o sia i così detti volgarmente *fori*, ad eccezione del foro ecclesiastico per le cause spirituali, e per le cause che appartengono alla Regia Monarchia ed Apostolica Legazia, abolendosi il foro personale di tutti i laici, commissionati, impiegati, e subalterni della medesima, e per come sarà spiegato nel nuovo Codice, talchè le cause tanto attive, che passive, così civili, che criminali di ogni sorta, di ogni classe di cittadini, dell' erario, o del fisco, di tutti i comuni e corporazioni, dovranno essere senza eccezione portate e decise dai magistrati e tribunali ordinarij dalla costituzione stabiliti.

Placet ;

Salvo restando il foro della Crociata giusta la Bolla di Gregorio XIII, per le cose di natura ecclesiastica, appartenenti alla Crociata medesima, e a condizione che i redattori del nuovo Codice debbano incaricarsi, e riferire sulle disposizioni relative a

tal foro che potranno essere state fatte dai posteriori Romani Pontefici, per potersi quindi impartire i convenienti provvedimenti; e salvo ancora quanto dovrà proporsi dal Parlamento su i privilegi dell'erario, e con che si pratici quanto si è detto al § 2, Capitolo 1, del Potere Giudiziario, finchè non saranno sistemate e poste in pratica le nuove magistrature.

§ 3. I soli delitti puramente militari, e quelli commessi dalla gente di guerra ne' quartieri, nelle fortezze ehiuse, ne' campi, o a bordo di legni di guerra, dovranno essere conosciuti e giudicati dai consigli di guerra, e da que magistrato che sarà prescritto dalle ordinanze dell'esercito, che dovrà presentare il Ministro della Guerra, ed approvare il Parlamento.

Placet;

Riserbandoci noi di emanare le nostre risoluzioni sul nuovo Codice Militare che si proporrà colla facoltà di apporvi le sanzioni, come si è detto nel § 2, Capitolo 1, del Potere Legislativo.

§ 4. Per le cause criminali il Parlamento specificherà come e da chi dovranno essere giudicati i membri del Parlamento stesso, e segnatamente i pari (giusta l'articolo sanzionato) e le altre persone di un pubblico e privilegiato carattere, in conformità alle massime della Costituzione d'Inghilterra.

Placet;

Riserbandoci noi apporvi le sovrane risoluzioni, a misura che il Parlamento ci presenterà le indicate specificazioni.

§ 5. Sarà però rispettata l'immunità personale degli ecclesiastici, come sarà stabilito a suo luogo nel nuovo Codice.

Placet;

Dovendosi nel nuovo Codice tener presenti i concordati e le bolle esecutoriate in questo regno.

GIUDIZIO DE' GIURI, O SIA UGUALI.

§ 1. Il giudizio de' giuri, o sia uguali giudici di fatto, sarà introdotto e stabilito in questo regno per i giudizi criminali ugualmente per ogni classe di cittadini.

Placet

Per tutti i sei paragrafi di questo titolo in quanto allo stabilimento, riserbando noi dichiarare il nostro Real animo su tutto il rimanente, quando ci verranno presentati gli stabilimenti del nuovo Codice.

§ 2. I Pari temporali del regno saranno però giudicati dalla Camera de' Pari, in quei casi e con quegli stessi modi e forme che si praticano in Inghilterra.

§ 3. I Pari spirituali saranno giudicati dalla Camera de' Pari in quei casi permessi dalle leggi della Chiesa.

§ 4. Il comitato che sarà incaricato della formazione del Codice Civile e Criminale, regolerà l'adottato sistema de' giuri alle circostanze locali e morali di questo regno.

§ 5. Egualmente si adotterà per i giudizi civili in quei casi e modi che lo crederà conveniente.

§ 6. Lo stesso comitato stenderà le forme e i modi da praticarsi nei giudizi de' Pari, o sia signori, regolandosi sulla Costituzione d'Inghilterra.

PIANO DI FINANZE.

§ 1. Il Parlamento applicatosi a provvedere ai bisogni dello Stato, considerando da una parte l'infelice attuale posizione delle finanze e dall'altra la necessità di prontamente occorrere alla difesa dello Stato, allo splendore del trono, ed al decoroso mantenimento della real Corte, non avendo potuto, per la ristrettezza del tempo, verificare dettagliatamente il patrimonio attivo dello Stato, nè fissarne colla conveniente esattezza lo stato passivo, si è contentato formare per ora un piano promodale, perchè provveduti così i bisogni dello Stato dell'anno corrente, si potesse dal prossimo Parlamento stabilire un nuovo piano generale di finanze; e quindi confermando quanto nel Capitolo II del Potere Legislativo trovasi stabilito, che alla nazione si apparterrà da oggi in avanti la proprietà di tutti i beni ed introiti dello Stato di qualunque natura compresi quelli sinora riguardati come beni della corona, è venuto a stabilire:

Placet.

§ 2. Che restino aboliti tutti i dazj, tasse ed imposizioni estinti in virtù degli stabilimenti del Parlamento del 1810, non meno quelli della decima e tari feudale, tari di possessione, dogane interne del regno, ed altri dall'attuale Parlamento soppressi; e quindi, che s'intenda sciolto qualsivisia contratto di arrendamento fatto per tali percezioni, senz'chè si potesse pretendere dai contraenti compenso veruno.

Che perciò lo stato attivo e promodale del patrimonio dello Stato depurato dai pesi inerenti alla, e s'intenda stabilito nel modo seguente, cioè:

Onze 799,000 per le imposizioni stabilite dal Parlamento del 1810, incluse le onze 156,382 che risultano di meno dai catasti del dazio del cinque per 100, come si asserisce.

Placet.

A tenore del Capitolo III, § 3, dei Consigli Civici.

§ 3. Ha però il Parlamento decretato che non siano esentati dalla suddetta tassa del 5 per 100 i proprietari di case rivelate in rendita di onze 24 annuali o infra, che per ciò abbiano detti proprietari la facoltà di disporne e locare dette case a mente del suddetto Parlamento del 1810, intendendosi al tempo stesso abolito qualsivisia privilegio accordato sinora dalle leggi e consuetudini di questo regno a militari, forensi, o conduttori di qualsivoglia classe o condizione privilegiata, restando però tutte le quote di contribuzione stabilite dal detto Parlamento, che fanno parte delle sopradette onze 799,000, con restare abolite tutte le tasse locali del regno, come fu allora detto, per pagarsi i precedenti donativi ed abolita ancora la tassa suppletoria di tari 3, e gr. 15 a botte stabilita sul consumo del vino.

Onze 45,500 per le bolle della Crociata, secondo il piano presentato dalla Real Segreteria di Finanze.

Onze 17,750 per regio lotto, secondo il piano presentato come sopra.

Onze 1398 dalle polizze d'arme, giusta il piano presentato dalla Real Segreteria di Finanze.

Onze 1672 della mezz' annata, secondo il piano presentato dalla Real Segreteria di Finanze.

Onze 4,521 dalle poste di Palermo e di Messina, come sopra.

Onze 35,284 dalle segresie.

Onze 96,250 dalle dogane, colletturie marittime, compreso il porto franco di Messina, il dazio dell' 1 per 100 sopra i generi che s'introducono in quella città per consumarsi nel regno, il diritto di dogane sopra i generi provenienti dalle Calabrie e la tratta della seta di Palermo e Messina, come sopra.

Placet.

Intendendosi che per le case di onze 24 infra avrà effetto dalla prossima indizione seconda 1813 e 1814 in poi.

§ 4. Circa al sopradetto articolo delle dogane, dovrà il Ministro delle Finanze prendere in considerazione le seguenti riforme proposte dal Parlamento e presentare al nuovo Parlamento un piano, onde potersi poi passare con maturezza a stabilire le riforme medesime.

Placet.

Per formarsi il piano, tenendo presenti le seguenti modificazioni notati ai numeri che seguono.

I. Che si porti a compimento la già intrapresa nuova tariffa;

Ci riserveremo dichiarare il nostro Real animo, dietro che sarà stabilito il nuovo sistema di dogane.

II. Che si mettano in vigore gli stabilimenti toccanti il deposito loco bastimento, proposti nella suprema giunta delle dogane sotto li 18 Aprile, 1805, ed indi autorizzati con successivi reali dispacci, e ciò tanto per questa dogana di Palermo, quanto per la dogana di Siracusa, a cui si è accordato detto deposito loco bastimento;

Dichiareremo il nostro Real animo in seguito che ci verrà presentato il nuovo piano per il sistema delle dogane da stabilirsi.

III. Che si assegni un conveniente e proporzionato salario agli impiegati delle dogane;

Placet.

IV. Che si facciano degli uffici presso il Ministro di Sua Maestà Britannica per poter visitare di concerto eugli impiegati del prelodato Ministro, tutte le piccole barche e principalmente Maltesi, onde impedirsi il continuo traffico de' contrabbandi;

Placet.

V. Che si abolisca qualsivisia sorta di franchigia, sia militare, sia di corpi privilegiati, di casa reale o altro;

Placet;

Con che il Parlamento abbia riguardo ai padri onusti poveri e rifletta alle conseguenze che ne potranno avvenire per il Trattato con la Gran Bretagna del 12 Settembre, 1812.

VI. Che tutti i dazi doganali si riducano ad unico e solo, abolendo la loro molteplicità, perchè essendo questa nociva al commercio, rende più complicato al tempo stesso il sistema di amministrazione;

Ci riserviamo prender ciò in considerazione allo stabilimento del nuovo sistema di dogane, per come di sopra si è specificato nel No. I di questo paragrafo.

VII. Che si aboliscano le dogane interne del regno, come è stato concluso al Capitolo III, § 3 dei Consigli Civili e Magistrature Municipali, quali giunte al cattivo stato delle strade, paralizzano moltissimo il commercio e circolazioni interne.

Onze 11,355 dai regi caricatori, secondo il piano presentato dalla Real Segreteria di Finanze.

Onze 6,669 dalla Contea di Mascali secondo il piano presentato dalla Real Segreteria di Finanze.

Onze 10,300 dalle rendite diverse ed introiti eventuali come sopra.

Onze 5,800 dall' Arcivescovado di Morreal, secondo l'ultimo rischiaramento della Real Segreteria di Finanze.

Onze 3,088 dalla decima sulle pensimi secondo il piano come sopra.

Onze 30,919, 24 dagli avanzi annuali sull'incamerata Contea di Modica, secondo il piano come sopra.

Onze 79,363, 19 dagli avanzi annuali sugli effetti sequestrati.

Onze 8,621 aumento su tali beni per l'anno corrente, come per rischiaramento della Real Segreteria di Finanze.

Placet.

Il Parlamento dovrà avere in considerazione per la sopraddetta partita dei sequestri i diritti degli Spagnuoli, per non calcolare su i loro beni come fuendi dell' erario, per come si dichiarò da Sua Real Maestà con dispaccio de' 30 Ottobre, 1812, ed oggi si è parimenti da noi manifestato con dispaccio del 23 di questo mese di Maggio.

§ 5. Nell'intelligenza che le due penultime sopradette partite sono state dal Parlamento depurate di tutte le pensioni ed assegnazioni gratuite che rimangono sospese in virtù dell' appresso stabilimento. Come pure delle onze 1005, 1, 10 annuali, che si pagano alla Compagnia di Gesù in surrogato della rendita dell' abbi di Otranto e Basilicata.

Onze 1414, 26 per causa del surrogato del tabacco sulle isole adiacenti.

Onze 560,000 per sussidi Inglesi al cambio di tari 42.

Onze 21,948, 11 dagli infrascritti cespiti amministrati sin' ora dal Ministro della Guerra.

Per terza pensionabile sin' ora assegnata per le spese della guerra, onze 7,926, 24.

Per fondi di lucri, onze 4,665, 1.

Per orfanatrofio militare, onze 3,755, 4.

Dal monte delle vedove, onze 628, 2.

Decima sulle prede, onze 4,953, 10.

Placet;

Ma nell'intelligenza che il Parlamento nuovo dovrà prendere in esame tutte quelle pensioni che promanano da cause onerose o remuneratorie, e che la giustizia in conseguenza esige che venissero continuate.

§ 6. Più onze 3,511 godute finora sul fondo di lucri dai castellani, governatori di piazze ed altro, e che oder devono ora in vantaggio dello Stato.

Placet.

§ 7. Più onze 4,632 per altra tassa addizionale di 15 per 100, che ha il Parlamento imposto, oltre alla decima sopra tutte le pensioni assegnazioni gratuite, o sussidj che restano escluse dallo stabilimento di cui si parlerà a suo luogo.

Totale, onze 1,847,687, 20.

Placet.

§ 8. Ha di più stabilito il Parlamento, che la terza pensionabile dovrà d'oggi innanzi dedursi generalmente sopra tutti i beni soggetti ad una tale deduzione, conchè non s'intenda no incluse quelle piccole abazie, la di cui rendita non monti ad onze 150 annuali, ed esclusi quelli sinora non gravati, dovendo regolarsi la medesima sugli ultimi nuovi rivelli, e cedere interamente a beneficio dello Stato, secondo che verranno meno le assegnazioni fattane.

Placet:

Atteso i bisogni straordinari dello Stato; riserbando di dichiarare il nostro Real animo al nuovo Parlamento riguardo al sistema.

Stabilito così il patrimonio attivo dello Stato, il Parlamento nel dover fissare il patrimonio passivo, ha conchiuso prima d'ogni altro;

§ 9. Che si assegni per lista civile, compreso quanto si è finora pagato alla Real Corte per titolo di casa reale, straordinario di corte, borsigli, franchigie su i generi o in denaro, ed altro, la somma di onze 211,000.

Quale somma mensualmente ripartita in onze 20,083, 10 è da distribuirsi nel modo seguente, cioè:

Onze 6000 a Sua Maestà il Re e sua real consorte, durante la vita di Sua Maestà tutto compreso come sopra.

Onze 4000 alla prelodata Maestà Sua in titolo di sussidj, e per un anno corso dal primo Settembre, e da correre per tutto Agosto prossimo venturo 1813.

Onze 500 per mantenimento della Sua Real Corte, e per un anno come sopra.

Onze 5000 alle loro Altezze Reali Principe e Principessa Ereditarij, e per loro Real Famiglia, durante la vita, come sopra, di Sua Maestà il Re, o sia dell'assunzione della prelodata Altezza Sua al trono.

Onze 1000 alla stessa Altezza Sua per la carica di Vicario Generale del Regno, e durante la medesima come sopra.

Onze 1583, 10 alla prelodata Altezza Sua in titolo di sussidj, e per un anno corso dal primo Settembre, 1812, e da correre per tutto Agosto 1813.

Onze 2000 alla Principessa D. Amalia, Ducessa d'Orleans, per un anno come sopra.

Placet.

§ 10. Dovendosi imputare nelle sopradette assegnazioni quanto dal primo di Settembre scorso si fosse alle dette reali persone pagato per questo conto di casa reale e rubriche suddette.

Placet.

§ 11. Consente ancora il Parlamento, che Sua Altezza Reale il Principe D. Leopoldo, oltre ai benefici ecclesiastici, di cui egli gode, goda pure finchè non sarà determinato altrimenti in appresso del Parlamento, di tutti quei proventi e beni che sono nazionali, e si trovano annessi all'amministrazione della badia della Magione, tuttavia dichiara il Parlamento, che qualora Sua Altezza Reale volesse rinunziare alla nazione, sua vita durante, i frutti e l'amministrazione della badia e commendata della Magione, della badia di Santa Maria di Altofonte, della procura di Bisacquino, dei beni e delle pertinenze di Prizati, e di Palazzo Adriano e di altri, in tal caso il Parlamento gli assegna d'ora per allora, e durante la sua vita onze 24,000 annuali da pagarglisi ad onze 2000 al mese, nell'intelligenza che non s'intenda in virtù delle precedenti assegnazioni arrecare alcun pregiudizio ai dritti e pretese che si potranno su tali beni da chiesa e chiesa esperire.

Placet:

Purechè restino ugualmente fermi ed intatti gli attuali dritti e prerogative dell'erario sopra gli annessi beni.

§ 12. Più si lascia a Sua Real Maestà vita durante l'uso del fondo di Lupo, Ficuzza e Cappelliere, di dipendenza dell'Arcivescovado di Monreale, e delli tre fondi di Santa Maria del Bosco, Giacomazzo, e Carubbelli, dell'abolito Ministero di Santa Maria del Busco sudetto.

Placet.

§ 13. Ha parimenti stabilito che si assegnino per soldi e spese dei Ministri esteri, consoli, corrieri, ed altro appartenente al Corpo Diplomatico, onze 30,000, nell'intelligenza che debbano tali impiegati essere Siciliani nati, giusta quanto si è dal presente Parlamento in altro luogo stabilito.

Placet

Per la riforma delle sopradette assegnazioni, ma d'aver luogo dal giorno che potranno venire notificati i sopradetti Ministri ed impiegati di ogni sorte nelle relazioni estere; per le condizioni poi degli impiegati *Placet*, ma da dover aver effetto per quei che da oggi innanzi saranno promossi, menochè dal Parlamento non si voglia fare, in considerazione dei servizi prestati sopra un decennio dagli attuali Ministri, un congruo assegnamento.

§ 14. Il Parlamento però ha ereditato fare una eccezione per il Duca di Serra Capriola. Minuto in Pietroburgo, aneschè non nato Siciliano, per li suoi lunghi e distinti se vizj tutte le volte che Sua Maestà non crede proprio far novità sul medesimo.

Placet.

§ 15. Come pare ha ereditato lasciare in libertà del Ministro delle Relazioni Estere l'eleggere fra Siciliani o esteri, i consoli ed i corrieri.

Placet.

§ 16. Dippiù ha stabilito che si assegni per le spese della guerra la infrascitta somma, cioè:

Onze 979,696 per le forze di terra.

Onze 223,106 per la real marina.

Oltre alla somma di onze 236,062 assegnate, cioè:

Onze 101,168 per le forze di terra.

Ed onze 134,894 per la real marina.

Placet.

§ 17. Per la formazione, cioè del nuovo piano di guerra e degli altri bisogni di detto ramo: con che però si debba una tal somma pagare al Ministro della Guerra delle precipue somme, che perverranno dalla esazione dei erediti dello Stato e colle seguenti condizioni;

Dichiareremo il nostro Real animo quando il nuovo piano de' bisogni sarà a noi presentato dall' imminente Parlamento.

§ 18. Che il supplemento alla nuova armata da formarsi sia tutto composto d'individui ed uffiziali Siciliani nati;

Placet;

Intendendosi a secondo del cap. VI, § 11, del Potere Esecutivo.

§ 19. Che intanto per adempire ad un tale oggetto nella mancanza di verun altro piano generale da adottarsi, si completi prumodalmente la forza proposta, con iscegliere un proporzionato numero di uffiziali ed individui dell'armata de' volontari sicilii, che vorranno arrollarvisi, per licenziarsi poi a misura che si supplirà altrimenti alla sopraddetta forza.

Ci riserbiamo a dichiarare il nostro Real animo dietro che ci sarà presentato il piano dal Parlamento imminente.

§ 20. Che per i corpi facoltativi, in mancanza di Siciliani valgano a coprirvi dei posti degli uffiziali esteri attualmente impiegati ne' medesimi.

Placet

Come al § 6 del Cap. VI del Potere Esecutivo.

§ 21. Autorizza il Parlamento il Ministro della Guerra a potere invertire quelle somme che potrà non erogare per le dette cause relative alle truppe di terra, in quella che possa essere necessario nel ramo medesimo, dovendone dar conto al venturo Parlamento.

Placet.

§ 22. Finalmente, il Parlamento ha assegnato al Ministro della Guerra onze 2000 al mese per poter pagare gli uffiziali ed individui superanti dell'armata di terra e di mare sopra i crediti in aumento a quegli assegnati e dello stesso modo e maniera; con che il detto Ministro debba occuparsi di andar disgravando tal peso, con dimettere (come meglio potrà) tutti questi uffiziali ed individui che abbiano servito meno di dieci anni nella linea, quale somma calcolata ad anno, importa onze 24,000.

Il Ministro della Guerra presenterà al nuovo Parlamento il vero stato degli uffiziali e di altri individui superanti, appartenenti al suo ramo.

§ 23. Ha ugualmente determinato il Parlamento che in vista delle attuali urgenze dello Stato, si sospendano tutte le pensioni, sussidi o assegnazioni gratuite, siano anche date in feudo, accordate sinora a non nati Siciliani e ad impiegati civili e militari, ancorchè Siciliani, colla semplice eccezione di quelle assegnate ad esteri degenti in reclusori o luoghi di educazione, e letterati e ttedatrici nella somma di onze 1168 circa.

Intuitivamente alla sopraddetta sospensione il Parlamento ha stabilito che si diano onze 10,000 a Sua Real Maestà e per essa a Sua Altezza Reale il Vicario-Generale, perchè l'Altezza Sua possa soccorrere a tutte quelle persone di condizione quattrimestranti che erederà beneficiare, sino al nuovo Parlamento, per via del Ministro delle Finanze.

Placet;

Tenendo presente per le pensioni quanto si è detto al § 5 del presente piano.

§ 24. Ha di più il Parlamento depurata la partita di onze 111,893 che si spende per la tesoreria generale di Palermo dalle pensioni, sussidi, assegnazioni, &c., sospese come sopra, come pure dalle onze 1500 annote nelle assegnazioni onerose in favore del monistero de' Benedettini di Morreale, per causa del censo loro dovuto sopra il feudo di Renda e Misero Cannone, non appartenente allo Stato e che dovrà da oggi innanzi soddisfarsi dall' attuale possessore, per cui risulta una tal partita in onze 103,727.

Placet.

§ 25. Più onze 8,292 per la partita in onze 11,000 spesa per la tesoreria generale di Messina, stantechè si è depurata di onze 2,216 erogati per oggetti particolari di strade di detta città, come altresì di onze 492, risultanti da due partite di onze 100 per una, altra di onze 180, ed altra in onze 112 di assegnazioni e sussidi sospesi, come sopra.

Placet.

§ 26. Più onze 8,500 per li quattro Segretari di Stato, cioè, di Relazioni Estere, Finanze, Guerra e Marina, ed Interno, ad onze 2000 per ciascheduno, incluse onze 500 di gratificazione al Segretario di Stato per Relazioni Estere per spese straordinarie, nell' intelligenza che s'intendono al tempo stesso sospesi i soldi accordati agli ex-Segretari di Stato.

Placet.

§ 27. Onze 15,000 per li carcerati, presidiari, e servi di pena di qualunque sorta, atteso lo sfratto già seguito di non pochi esteri che facevano esito di onze 20,000.

Il Parlamento però desidera che il Ministro della Guerra presentasse un piano di economia, onde alleggerire la nazione di un tal peso.

Placet.

§ 28. Onze 900 per limosine e mercedi alla Pantellaria.

Placet.

§ 29. Onze 57,420 per assegnatari sopra li scudi 300,000.

Placet.

§ 30. Onze 16,512 per detti sulle tande.

Placet.

§ 31. Onze 29,640 per detti su i due milioni.

Placet.

§ 32. Più onze 10,000 per le assegnazioni da farsi ai communi del regno, alle commende dell' ordine Gerosolimitano e renli abadie in surrogato di beni e rendite loro vendute.

Placet.

§ 33. Il Parlamento però nell' assegnare la sopraddetta somma di onze 10,000, dichiara di riserbare il giudizio sulla restituzione dei fondi alienati al futuro Parlamento, e supplica Sua Maestà sospendere il compimento di dette vendite o alienazioni, ancorchè fossero iniziate.

Parchè ciò si esamini con quelle vedute di giustizia che convengono, *Placet.*

§ 34. Onze 3,200 alla casa di Airoidi sull' abolito ramo di decima e tari.

Placet.

§ 35. Onze 33,600 per le strade del regno.

Placet.

§ 36. Onze 3,200 per li ponti.

Placet.

§ 37. Onze 4000 per le torri.

Placet.

§ 38. Più onze 17,848 assegnate per num. 23 compagnie d'arme, composte di un capitano e dodici uomini col soldo di onze 400 annuali per il primo e di onze 96 per uno, per li secondi per gli oggetti indicati dal Parlamento del 1810 non meno che dal presente, per mesi sei, con che però debbansi corrispondere dal giorno che Sua Maestà li metterà in esercizio.

Placet.

§ 39. Più onze 20,000 accordate al Ministro delle Finanze per esiti di spese non prevedute, per remissioni di mercedi ai fittajuoli dei fondi dello Stato, e per la minorazione che potrebbe sperimentarsi nel prodotto dei cespiti eventuali e di quelli dipendenti dal commercio per anno uno a tutto Agosto 1813.

Placet.

§ 40. Più onze 600 a D. Vincenzo li Pomi per adempire all' obbligo dei caratteri per lo stamperia, come dall' offerta accettata ed approvata dal Parlamento.

Placet;

Come incoraggiamento, restando per la stamperia stabilito quanto si disse al § 1 del cap. XVII del Potere Legislativo.

§ 41. Più onze 13,596 assegnate prudenzialmente al Ministro delle Finanze, per pagamento delle pensioni, sussidi ed assegnazioni gratuite, sospese per un terzo corso dal primo Settembre e da correre o tutto Dicembre prossimo venturo 1812.

Placet.

§ 42. Più onze 2,902, tari 19 e gr. 6 per spese del presente Parlamento, da distribuirsi come per nota.

Più onze 156,382 per quelle stesso mancanti dai catasti del dazio del 5 per 100.

Incluse le onze 246,072 assegnate al Ministro della Guerra della precepue somme che perverranno dalla esazione dei crediti dello Stato, come si è detto che si deducano dalla sopradetta somma.

Resta il patrimonio passivo onze 2,016,089, 19, 6.

BILANCIO DEL PATRIMONIO ATTIVO E PASSIVO DELLO STATO.

Patrimonio passivo	+	+	onze.	2,016,089	19	6
Patrimonio attivo	.	.	.	1,847,687	20	0
Resta un disavanzo di onze	.	.	.	168,401	29	6

Placet.

§ 43. Circa alle suddette onze 156,382 che mancano dal catasto dei riveli, eredo il Parlamento che ciò derivi dalla poca esattezza nei riveli fatti e che perciò volendo avervi una perfetta ed indubitata cognizione della massa delle rendite tassabili, rivelata per la indizione decimaterza, ha decretato il Parlamento che per farsi una esatta rettificazione di essi riveli, abbia il Ministro delle Finanze ad ingiungere con proclama i rivelanti e generalmente i possessori tutti di fondi a correggere gli errori che possono per inavvertenza esser corsi nei riveli presentati, ed esibire tali correzioni dentro il termine di mesi due dal giorno della pubblicazione del proclama, con produrre gli atti di gabella dei fondi e di locazione delle case fatte per la detta indizione decimaterza, e dove questi manchino, produrre, giusta quanto fu stabilito nel Parlamento del 1810 una fede del netto ritratto di economia, firmata con giuramento dai proprietari o loro procuratori, ed avvalorata dalla fede di un probo ed onesto agrimensore per la misura dei beni rustici e architetto per i fondi urbani; passato il qual termine si abbiano da pubblicare in istampa tutti gli eseguiti riveli nominativi e quantativi sotto la responsabilità del prelodato Ministro delle Finanze e si abbiano da affissare nei pubblici luoghi della capitale e dei rispettivi comuni, promettendo ai denunzianti, che faranno costare una occultazione nella quantità o valore dei beni rivelati, o l'esistenza di un qualche contratto non occultato, il triplo di quella somma che risulterà doversi aggravare di più su tali beni e da giavarsi ancora a carico dell' occultante, oltre all' appropriazione del capitale di una tal rendita, metta per il denunziante e metta a vantaggio dello Stato. Le stesse leggi e penali avranno luogo contro quelli che dentro il termine sopra descritto avranno mancato di fare i loro riveli.

Placet

In quanto alla rettificazione dei riveli; in quanto però alla forma e metodo, faremo presentare dal Ministro delle Finanze un progetto al Parlamento, affinché possa prenderlo in esame.

§ 44. Vuole inoltre il Parlamento, che si portino a compimento inalterabilmente dentro il termine di mesi quattro gli strasatti ordinati dal Parlamento del 1810.

Placet.

§ 45. Or il Parlamento, abbenchè abbia proposto dei mezzi, onde supplire al mentovato voto dei catasti e di tutte le altre erogazioni necessarie allo Stato, abbenchè abbia riformato alcune partite di esito, differendole a più felici circostanze, pure, per assicurare maggiormente la rendita dello Stato, e per contestare alla nazione tutta, ed alla maestà del Re non solo il suo disinteresse, che la sua riconoscenza o quanto Sua Maestà ha accordato in

questo straordinario Parlamento, ha determinato tassarsi tutte le proprietà comprese nel Parlamento del 1810 del due e un mezzo per cento, oltre la tassa del 5 per 100, aumentando la ritenzione al setto e mezzo per cento, come fu stabilita, e colle stesse condizioni del censato Parlamento del 1810.

Placet.

§ 46. Ridettendo però il Parlamento, che la rendita che si ricaverà dall' addizione della già detta tassa del due e un mezzo per cento sopra le proprietà, lascerà un voto nel patrimonio dello Stato più di onze 60,000, così per riempire il medesimo ha stabilito, che s'imponghi una tassa di tari due a barile legale sull' esportazione del vino per fuori regno.

Si lascia al Parlamento imminente lo stabilire questo articolo.

§ 47. Ha inoltre determinato il Parlamento che il prelodato Ministro di Finanze, abbia nell' intervallo di tempo tra l'attuale, e prossimo futuro Parlamento a verificare colla massima esattezza possibile tutti i rami di pubblica amministrazione, e presentare gli stati dettagliati ed individuali di ognun di essi di lordo e collo sfogo soltanto de' pesi inerenti, e delle spese di amministrazione, unitamente agli stati di esiti, che generalmente si fanno per le spese e bisogni dello Stato, dovendo lo stesso praticare per lo resto dei crediti dello Stato medesimo.

Placet.

§ 48. Che abbia il prelodato Ministro ugualmente a suggerire tutti i miglioramenti e riforme di cui ogni ramo è suscettibile, con arrendare al tempo stesso tutto ciò, che dei pubblici crediti ne sia comportabile e che abbia similmente a liquidare e classificare i debiti dello Stato, siano annui, che quantitativi, presentando un piano giustificativo dei medesimi.

Placet.

“ All' oggetto poi di far note al Parlamento le difficoltà che giudichiamo potersi incontrare sullo esatto adempimento di quanto il Parlamento stabilì relativamente al presente piano di finanze, abbiamo ordinato al Ministro delle Finanze stesse di presentare qui appresso, o separatamente un prospetto colle necessarie dilucidazioni.”

APPUNTAMENTO

Fatto dai tre Bracci Ecclesiastico, Militare e Demaniale.

No. 1. Colui il quale presenterà al nuovo Parlamento un piano di educazione e d'istruzione pubblica, che sarà dal medesimo riconosciuto il più utile e della più facile esecuzione, riceverà un premio di onze 400.

Il piano dovrà contenere :

1. Il regolamento per tutti li pubblici studj del regno.
2. Modo d'insegnarsi e conservarsi sempre viva nelle popolazioni la uemoria della nuova Costituzione.
3. Metodo e riforme per tutti i collegi, seminarj ecclesiastici e laicali, e stabilimenti di educazione dell' uno e l'altro sesso, attualmente esistenti in questo regno.
4. Metodo per buon ordine e regolamento delle diverse accademie civili e militari.

Placet.

SUPPLICA DELL' INTIERO PARLAMENTO A SUA REAL MAESTA.

No. 2. Il Parlamento supplica Sua Real Maestà per degnarsi di tenere in considerazione tutti quegl' impiegati secundarj e subalterni Siciliani, che han finora ben servito la Maestà Sua e lo Stato, e che per le nuove leggi stabilite dal Parlamento medesimo, restauo privi degl' impieghi, e delle cariche che hanno fino a quest' oggi nell' antico sistema esercitato.

Placet

Per tutti quelli che avranno ben servito allo Stato, e saranno riconosciuti idonei e probi.

PROPOSTA IN FORMA DI GRAZIA

Fatta dal Braccio Demaniale alla quale si uniformò il Braccio Ecclesiastico.

No. 3. Il Braccio Demaniale, enoscendo di quale importanza sia l'agevolazione del commercio di questo regno, e considerando la vantaggiosa posizione del conosciuto porto di Siracusa, tanto in rapporto al Levante, quanto per la vicinanza dell' Isola di Malta, ha votato di accordarsi al porto suddetto e dogana di Siracusa la facoltà di essere sito di deposito loco bastimento; conchè però i magazzini, custodi, e tutte le altre spese abbisognevoli debbansi subire dal comune stesso di Siracusa, e non già dall' intera nazione.

Pregano inoltre i cennati due bracci la Maestà Sua perchè si compiacca accordare l'uguale grazia di deposito loco bastimento a quei noli e porti del regno che crederà a proposito per li vantaggi del commercio generale della Sicilia, colle medesime condizioni di sopra indicate.

Placet;

Uniformemente a quanto sta espresso nella sanzione del No. II, § 4, del Piano di Finanze.

ALTRA PROPOSTA DEL BRACCIO DEMANIALE,

Alla quale si uniformò il Braccio Ecclesiastico.

N. 4. Persuaso il Braccio Demaniale della somma necessità di portare a compimento le strade in Sicilia, ha votato, che tanto per la scelta del piano migliore, per recare a compimento le strade in Sicilia al più presto possibile, ed impiegando i mezzi più economici, quanto per lo regolamento, onde impiegare i mezzi per lo mantenimento delle stesse, ne sia incaricato il Ministro delle Finanze sotto la propria responsabilità, e dovendo darne conto al Parlamento; beninteso che il predetto Ministro debba prin d'ogni altro portare a compimento la strada consolare già cominciata da Palermo a Messina per la via delle montagne. Ha inoltre votato, che si mettano in opera d'oggi innanzi le barriere o sia catene, &c., per la conservazione delle strade già fatte.

Placet;

Purchè con ciò non si intenda indotta alcuna restrizione a quanto viene fissato nel § 13, del cap. I, e nel § 1, cap. III, del Potere Esecutivo, intorno alle prerogative inerenti alla Corona.

CAPITOLO SEPARATO

Conchiuso dal Parlamento Inerente al Capitolo VI del Potere Esecutivo.

No. 5. Il Parlamento, siccome nel capitolo VI del Potere Esecutivo stabilì la esclusione degli esteri dai comandi militari; attesa oggi l'esistenza in questo regno delle truppe di Sua Maestà Britannica nostra alleata, ha creduto fare eccezione alle attuali misure adottate relativamente all' armata ed ufficiali Inglesi.

Sanzionato nel § I cap. 2, del Potere Esecutivo.

NOTA DE PARI SPIRITUALI.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Arcivescovo di Palermo | 31. Abate di S. Maria di Roccadia |
| 2. Arcivescovo di Messina | 32. Abate di S. Filippo de Grandis |
| 3. Arcivescovo di Morreale | 33. Abate di S. Filippo di Fragalà |
| 4. Vescovo di Catania | 34. Abate di S. Maria di Bordonaro |
| 5. Vescovo di Siracusa | 35. Abate di S. Nicolò la Ficò |
| 6. Vescovo di Girgenti | 36. Priore di S. Andrea di Piazza |
| 7. Vescovo di Patti | 37. Priore di S. Croce di Messina |
| 8. Vescovo di Cefalù | 38. Abate di S. Spirito di Caltanissetta |
| 9. Vescovo di Mazzara | 39. Abate di S. Nicandro |
| 10. Vescovo di Lipari | 40. Abate di S. Caterina de Linguaglossa |
| 11. Archimandrita di Messina | 41. Abate di S. Lucin di Noto |
| 12. Gran Priore di San Giovanni di Messina | 42. Abate di S. Maria di Terrana |
| 13. Abate di S. Lucia | 43. Priore de' beneficj di S. Matteo la Gloria di Messina |
| 14. Commendatore della Magione di Palermo | 44. Abate di S. Maria delle Giubarre |
| 15. Abate di S. Maria di Altofonte detta del Parco | 45. Abate di S. M. la Novaluce |
| 16. Abate di S. Spirito | 46. Abate di S. Maria del Pino di Capizzi |
| 17. Abate di S. Maria di Maniace | 47. Abate di S. Giacomo d'Altopasso di Naro |
| 18. Abate di S. Angelo di Brolo | 48. Abate di S. Martino de Scalas |
| 19. Abate di S. Pietro e Paolo d'Italia | 49. Abate di S. Placido di Messina |
| 20. Abate di S. Giovanni gli Eremiti | 50. Abate di S. Nicolò l'Arena |
| 21. Abate di S. Maria la Novara | 51. Precettore di S. Calogero |
| 22. Abate di S. Maria la Grotta | 52. Priore di S. Maria la Nova di Morreale |
| 23. Abate di S. Maria di Roccamadure | 53. Abate di Gangi lo Vecchio |
| 24. Abate di S. Pietro e Paolo della forza di Agiò | 54. Abate di S. Maria di Pedaly |
| 25. Abate di S. Maria di Gala | 55. Abate della SS. Trinità di Castiglione |
| 26. Abate di S. Maria di Mandanici | 56. Abate di S. Anna la Portella |
| 27. Abate di S. Pantaleone | 57. Abate di S. Maria dell' Arco |
| 28. Abate di S. Maria de Milis | 58. Abate di Santa Anastasia |
| 29. Abate di S. Mielele di Troina | 59. Abate della SS. Trinità di Delia |
| 30. Abate di S. Gregorio lo Gibiso | 60. Abate di S. Maria del Pandrò |
| | 61. Abate di S. Filippo di S. Lucia |

Si avverte che nella presente nota sono incluse le abadie che trovansi attualmente riunite in unico individuo, il quale non avrà nella Camera dei Pari che un sol voto, a norma dello stabilimento del Parlamento, non potendosi togliere dalla nota tali abadie, perchè estinto il possessore attuale, tali abadie vengono a dividersi.

Sono però mancanti dalla presente nota le tre abadie di S. Filippo d'Argirò, S. Elia d'Ambola e del SS. Salvatore la Piana, quali abadie, comechè trovansi assegnate all'università degli studi di Palermo, hanno perciò perduto la rappresentanza nella Camera dei Pari, avendone acquistata un'altra in quella dei Comuni: e ciò a norma pure di quanto ha stabilito il Parlamento.

E nota dei prelati ed abati Parlamentari, oggi detti Pari spirituali, estratta dal ruolo che si conserva nell'ufficio di Protonotaro di questo Regno di Sicilia.

GAETANO RUTE, Reg. Cond.

NOTA DE' PARI TEMPORALI.

1. Principe di Butera
2. Principe di Castelvetro
3. Principe di Paternò
4. Principe di Castelbuono
5. Principe di Trahia
6. Principe di Castiglione
7. Principe di Villafranca
8. Principe di Paceo
9. Principe di Roccafortita
10. Principe di Scaletta
11. Principe di Maletto
12. Principe di Pantellaria
13. Principe di Palazzolo
14. Principe di Leonforte
15. Principe di Carini
16. Principe di Castelnuovo
17. Principe di Campofranco
18. Principe di Aragona
19. Principe di Scordia
20. Principe di Valguarnera
21. Principe di Resottano
22. Principe di Partanna
23. Principe di Malvagna
24. Principe di Calvaruso
25. Principe di Monforte
26. Principe di Palagonia
27. Principe di Cassaro
28. Principe di Biscari
29. Principe di Mezzogiorno
30. Principe di Montevago
31. Principe di Mirto
32. Principe di Galati
33. Principe di Raffadali
34. Principe di Militello V. D.
35. Principe di Cerami
36. Principe di Campoforito
37. Principe di Aci SS. Ant. e Filippo
38. Principe di Sciarra
39. Principe di S. Antonino
40. Principe di Comitini
41. Principe di Furnari
42. Principe di Rosolini
43. Principe di Spadafora
44. Principe di Rammanoca
45. Principe di S. Teodoro
46. Principe di Belmonte
47. Principe di Ficcarazzi
48. Principe della Mola
49. Principe di Camporeale
50. Principe di Castelforte
51. Duca di Bivona
52. Duca di Castrolibbo
53. Duca di Palma
54. Duca di Raitano
55. Duca di Montagna
56. Duca di Pilaio
57. Duca di Serradifalco
58. Duca di Sperlinga
59. Duca di Gualtieri
60. Duca di Muterbianco
61. Duca di Cesarò
62. Duca di Carceni
63. Duca di Castelluccio
64. Duca di Acquaviva
65. Duca di S. Giacomo Villaroja
66. Duca di Sorrentino
67. Duca di Vatticani
68. Duca di Bronte
69. Marchese di Maione
70. Marchese di Giarratana
71. Marchese di Sambuca
72. Marchese di Montemaggiore
73. Marchese di Santa Croce
74. Marchese Sortino
75. Marchese della Motta
76. Marchese di Tortorici La Graniti
77. Marchese di Roccalumera
78. Marchese di S. Cataldo
79. Marchese di Ogliastro
80. Marchese di Lucua
81. Marchese di Capizzi
82. Marchese di Mongiuffi Melia
83. Marchese di Camporotondo
84. Marchese di Alimena
85. Marchese di Murata la Cerda
86. Marchese delli Bagni
87. Marchese di S. Ferdinando
88. Marchese di Marianopoli, seu Manchi Raddusa
89. Conte di Modica
90. Conte di Naso
91. Barone della Ficarra
92. Barone di Castania
93. Barone di S. Stefano di Mistretta
94. Barone di Tripi
95. Barone di Longi
96. Barone di Pettineo
97. Barone di Prizzi
98. Barone delli Martini
99. Barone di Rocca
100. Barone di Gufrano
101. Barone di Casalnuovo
102. Barone di Vita
103. Barone di Tusa
104. Barone di S. Carlo
105. Barone di Vallerlunga
106. Barone di Caggi
107. Barone di Baucina
108. Barone della Ferla
109. Barone di Gallodoro
110. Barone di Riesi, seu Altariva
111. Barone di Villadoro
112. Barone di Campobello
113. Barone di Malinventure, seu Catena nuova
114. Barone di Villasmundo
115. Barone di Castelnormando
116. Barone di Giardinello
117. Barone di Pachino
118. Barone di S. Pietro Clarenza
119. Barone di Alimusa
120. Barone di Villalba
121. Barone di S. Cono
122. Barone di Villaura
123. Barone di S. Stefano di Briga
124. Barone di Belvedere

E nota dei Principi, Duchi, Marchesi, Conti e Baroni parlamentari, oggi detti Pari temporali, estratta dal ruolo che si conserva nell'ufficio di Protonotaro di questo Regno di Sicilia.

GAETANO RUTE, Reg. Cond.

MAPPA

DEL NUMERO DEI RAPPRESENTANTI DELLA CAMERA DEI COMUNI,

A tenore delle rispettive Popolazioni delle città e terre secondo la numerazione del 1798. e secondo quel ch'è stato stabilito dal Parlamento.

Città e Terre.	Popolazioni.	Voti.	Città e Terre.	Popolazioni.	Voti.
Palermo		6	Mazara	8,335	1
Messina	secondo s'è stabilito dal Parlamento		Mazara	10,686	1
Catania			Menfi	6,136	1
Acì Reale	14,991	1	Milazzo	6,520	1
Aderù	6,623	1	Militello V. N.	7,205	1
Alcamo	13,000	1	Mineo	8,026	1
Aragona	6,532	1	Mistretta	8,050	1
Augusta	9,443	1	Modica	17,574	1
Avola	6,782	1	Monte S. Giuliano	8,172	1
Biancavino	8,080	1	Morreale	12,776	1
Bronte	9,253	1	Muscomeli	9,276	1
Caccamo	6,424	1	Naro	10,739	1
Calatani	10,000	1	Nicosia	12,064	1
Caltagirone	18,609	2	Niscemi	6,678	1
Caltanissetta	15,627	1	Noto	11,065	1
Caniatti	16,455	1	Palazzo	8,520	1
Casini	7,090	1	Partanna	11,000	1
Calascibetta	Perchè godera la rappresentanza		Partinico	9,772	1
Castelbuono	7,080	1	Paternò	9,808	1
Castellammare	6,000	1	Patti	Perchè godera la rappresentanza	
Castelvetro	11,782	1	Petrolia Sottana	6,351	1
Castrogiovanni	11,143	1	Piazza	11,904	1
Castroreale	Perchè godera la rappresentanza		Pietraperzia	8,292	1
Castrorale e Casoli	11,146	1	Pozzo di Gotto	Perchè godera la rappresentanza	
S. Cataldo	7,879	1	Polizzi	Idem	
Catolico	7,060	1	Prizzi	7,455	1
Cefalù	8,937	1	Ragusa	16,616	1
Chiaramonte	6,594	1	Rametta	Perchè godera la rappresentanza	
Chiusa	6,002	1	Randazzo	Idem	
Ciminna	6,150	1	Ranineto	7,630	1
Comiso	10,445	1	Salemi	12,256	1
Corleone	12,527	1	Sambuca	8,728	1
Favara	7,598	1	Sciacca	11,514	1
S. Filippo d'Argirò	6,118	1	Scicli	6,639	1
Girgenti	14,882	1	Siracusa	13,851	1
Grammichele	7,687	1	Sortino	7,155	1
Leonforte	9,757	1	Spaccanormo	8,005	1
Licata	11,250	1	Sutera	Perchè godera la rappresentanza	
Licodia	6,905	1	Tacormina	Idem	
Linguaglossa	Perchè godera la rappresentanza		Termini	14,150	1
Lipari	12,483	1	Terranova	9,234	1
S. Lucia	Perchè godera la rappresentanza		Tortorici	Perchè godera la rappresentanza	
Lentini	Perchè godera la rappresentanza		Trapani	7,001	1
Marino	6,545	1	Trapani	24,330	2
S. Margherita	7,274	1	Vittoria	9,966	1
Marsala	20,559	3	Vizzini	9,181	1
Mascali	13,705	1			

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E più numero 46 voti per rappresentanti de' ventitrè distretti a numero due per distretto	46
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Università degli studj di Catania	1

Sono in tutto 154

E copia della mappa di popolazioni, secondo la numerazione delle anime del 1798, per la rappresentanza nella Camera dei Comuni, ridotta agli atti dell' ufficio di Protonotario di questo Regno di Sicilia.

GAETANO RUTIE, Reg. Coad.

TAVOLA

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(Translation.)

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Sicily proposed by the Extraordinary General Parliament in 1812, and sanctioned by two Royal Diplomas bearing date the 9th February and 25th May, 1823.

The Bases of the New Constitution.

AN extraordinary General Parliament having, by the royal proclamation of the 1st of May, 1812, been convoked by His Royal Highness the Hereditary Prince, as Vicar-General and *Alter Ego*, to the end that provision might be made by the same, not only for the exigencies of the State, but also for the correction of abuses, the amelioration of the laws, and whatever else might concern the true welfare of this most faithful kingdom; and the same having assembled in its corporate capacity, it established the bases of a new Constitution, which were transmitted to the Throne by the same, under date of the 23th of July following. Wherefore, the Prince Royal, being authorized to this effect by his august father, by a commission dated the 1st of August following, and duly extracted and executed by the Prothonotary of the Kingdom, on the 10th day of the same month, and acting in conformity with the propositions of Parliament, and, by consequence, with the wishes of the nation, has granted the royal sanction to the following provisions:

I. That the religion of this kingdom shall be solely and exclusively the Catholic Apostolic Roman; that the King shall be bound to profess that religion; and that in the event of his professing any other, the Throne shall, *ipso facto*, become vacant.

II. That the legislative power shall be vested exclusively in Parliament. The laws shall have force as soon as they have received the sanction of His Majesty. All taxes, of every description whatever, shall be imposed by the Parliament alone, and must likewise receive the royal sanction. The formula shall be *Veto or Placeit*; as they must be either accepted or refused by the King, without any modification whatever.

III. That the executive power shall reside in the person of the King.

IV. That the judicial power shall be distinct from, and independent of, the executive and legislative powers, and shall be exercised by a body of judges and magistrates, who shall be liable to be tried, punished, and removed from office, by a sentence of the Chamber of Peers, at the instance of the Chamber of Commons, in conformity with the practice which prevails under the Constitution of England, and as will be treated of more fully under the article *Magistracies*.

V. That the person of the King shall be sacred and inviolable.

VI. That the Ministers of the King and the public officers shall be subject to the examination and control of the Parliament; by which they shall be accused, tried, and condemned, whenever they commit any offence against the Constitution and the laws, or any serious crime in the exercise of their functions.

VII. That the Parliament shall be composed of two Chambers:—one called the Chamber of Commons, or representatives of the domanial and baronial populations, under such conditions and forms as the Parliament shall hereafter establish, in a detailed article upon this subject; the other called the Chamber of Peers, which shall be composed of all those ecclesiastics and their successors, and of all those barons and their successors, possessors of actual peerages, who are at present entitled to sit and vote in the two ecclesiastical and military branches (*Bracci*), and also of such other persons as may be selected by His Majesty, under the conditions and limitations which the Parliament may establish in the detailed Article upon this subject.

VIII. That the Barons, as Peers, shall have only one vote each, the plurality of votes at present existing, in proportion to the number of their populations (or peerages), being abolished. The Prothonotary of the Kingdom shall prepare a list of the present Barons and ecclesiastics, which shall be enrolled among the archives of Parliament.

IX. That it shall be the prerogative of the Crown to convoke, prorogue, and dissolve the Parliament, according to the forms and regulations which will hereafter be established. His Majesty shall, however, convoke the same every year.

X. That no Sicilian shall be arrested, banished, or otherwise punished, or molested in the possession and enjoyment of his rights and property, except in pursuance of the enactments of a new code, which will be passed by the present Parliament, and by means of orders and sentences of the ordinary magistrates, and in such form and with such provisions for public security as the Parliament shall hereafter determine. The Peers shall be entitled to the same forms of trial which are enjoyed by the Peers in England, as will be hereafter more fully specified.

XI. That feudal rights shall no longer exist; and that all lands shall henceforth be possessed as allodial property in Sicily, preserving, however, in the respective families, the same order of succession as at present prevails. The baronial jurisdictions shall also cease, and the Barons shall be exempted from all those burthens to which they have hitherto been subject on account of such feudal rights. Investitures, reliefs, escheats to the Crown, and every other burthen incident to the feudal system shall be abolished, preserving, however, to each family its titles and honours.

XII. That, lastly, every proposal relating to supplies, must be exclusively originated and concluded in the Chamber of Commons, and be transmitted from thence to the Chamber of Peers, which shall merely assent to, or dissent from, the same, without making any alteration therein; and that all propositions which relate to matters of legislation, or other subjects, may be brought forward in either Chamber indiscriminately, the right of rejecting the same being reserved to the other Chamber.

— The above royal sanction was communicated on the 10th August, 1812, by the Secretary of State for Domestic Relations, to the Parliament, which, in consequence, entered upon the task of developing and establishing in detail the Articles of the New Constitution, as may be more fully perceived on reference to the Act of Parliament which was stipulated for in the presence of His Royal Highness, on the 7th day of November following, by the Prothonotary of this Kingdom.

TITLE I.

ON THE LEGISLATIVE POWER.

CHAPTER I.

§ 1. The Parliament shall possess exclusively the power of making, dispensing, interpreting, modifying, and abrogating the laws; and every legislative act shall have the force of law as soon as it has received the sanction of the King.]

Placet.

§ 2. The King shall decide upon the decrees of the Parliament before dissolving or proroguing it, using the simple form of *Placet* or *Veto*, and without in any way altering or modifying them; which His Majesty was pleased to assent to by his royal mandate of August 10, 1812.

Placet;

With the understanding that this arrangement shall commence with the Parliament of 1813, except as regards the new laws of the new Code, which, as an integral part of the present Constitution, are to be considered as so many distinct propositions, some of which may be approved of, while others may be rejected.

§ 3. Every law shall be inscribed in the registers of the kingdom, and the Secretary of State having that department shall transmit, in the name of His Majesty, to all the magistrates and public functionaries, a printed copy of the laws for their observance.

Placet;

With the understanding that the Crown shall have the right of proclaiming them and the charge of requiring the observance and execution of them by suitable edicts.

§ 4. The Parliament alone shall have the right not only to make laws, but also to create and organise new, and to suppress old, magistracies.

Placet;

With the understanding that as regards the creation and organization of new magistracies under extraordinary circumstances, it shall be in our power to delegate one or more individuals, who shall be selected from the existing magistrates, and whose proceedings shall, however, be regulated according to custom and the laws in force.

CHAPTER II.

§ 1. The Parliament alone shall have the power to impose new taxes of every description, and to alter those already imposed. All the supplies shall be voted for only one year. Such decrees of the Parliament shall, however, be void, as has already been stated with reference to the laws, unless they are confirmed by royal sanction.

Placet.

§ 2. All the property and revenues of the State of every description whatever, shall from this day forward be the property of the nation, and the Parliament shall consequently be at full liberty to dispose of them, subject, however, to Royal sanction.

Placet.

CHAPTER III.

§ 3. Ecclesiastical property shall be inalienable, except in the cases provided for by the Holy See.

Placet;

If those cases in which they have been so *de jure* be further excepted.

CHAPTER IV.

§ 1. The next Parliament, as well as all future Parliaments which may be convoked by His Majesty, shall be composed of two Chambers; one entitled the Chamber of Peers or Lords, the other the Chamber of Commons.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. The Chamber of Peers shall be composed of all those Barons and their successors, and of all those ecclesiastics and their successors, who have at present the right of sitting and voting in Parliament. The spiritual as well as the temporal Peers shall have but one vote each, the present plurality of votes for their different peerages being abolished.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. The respective and only Peerage for which each Peer, temporal and ecclesiastical, can vote, shall be established by the lists to be prepared by the Prothonotary of the Kingdom—which lists shall be placed at the end of the Parliamentary Act.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. The dignity of the temporal Peers, in conformity with the title expressed in the above-mentioned list, shall be perpetual, inalienable, and hereditary; and it shall not be transferred either by sale or donation, nor in any other manner than by succession, according as such succession may be established in the respective families. In the same manner, ecclesiastical Parliamentary dignities shall continue to be perpetual and inalienable.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. His Majesty may create as many new temporal Peers as he may think proper, provided that the persons chosen be Sicilian Princes, Dukes, Marquises, Counts, Viscounts, or Barons, and possess a clear annual income, issuing out of lands, amounting to at least 6000 ounces; and every diploma of the King for such purpose shall be of no force and effect unless it shall have been first registered in the Acts of the Chamber of Peers, which is alone entitled to take cognizance of the said conditions.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

So far as relates to the creation of Peers; but subject to the understanding that His Majesty reserves to himself a power hereafter to declare his royal sentiments with regard to the limitations.

§ 6. Upon the creation of new bishoprics in our Kingdom of Sicily, the new bishops and their successors shall be, *ipso facto*, spiritual Peers.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 7. The temporal Peers shall have the power of appointing their immediate successors as their proxies, respectively; and they, as well as the spiritual Peers, may confide such proxies to any other Peers, provided that no more than one proxy be entrusted to the same person.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER V.

§ 1. The Chamber of Commons shall be composed of the representatives of the populations of the whole kingdom, without distinction as to whether they be domanial or baronial, in the number and proportions which follow:—

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. The entire kingdom, with the exception of the adjacent islands, shall be divided into twenty-three districts, according to the map already prepared, on which are marked the chief places or capital populations, and which shall be registered in the Acts of the Prothonotary of the Kingdom; and each of these districts shall send two representatives to the Chamber of Commons.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. The city of Palermo shall send six representatives; the cities of Catania and Messina three each; and every other city or land of which the population amounts to 18,000 souls, shall send two representatives, besides those elected by their respective district.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. Every city or land, the population of which amounts to 6000 inhabitants, and is less than 18,000, shall send one representative.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. Those cities or lands which contain less than 6000 inhabitants shall be included in the district.

"But it is declared by Parliament, that this law shall not take the franchise from those domainial cities which are in actual possession of the same, although the population of such cities may not amount to 6000 souls, unless they have become so far reduced by the vicissitudes of time, as not to contain more than 2000 inhabitants."

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 6. The census of the population published in 1798 shall be the standard to be adopted in the execution of the foregoing enactment; subject to the condition, however, that any general census of the population which may hereafter be published, and approved by Parliament, shall at all times serve as the standard for regulating the number of the representatives.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 7. The Island of Lipari shall have only one representative, as at present.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 8. The universities of learning of the cities of Palermo and Catania shall have one representative each; but whenever the university of Palermo may be entitled, in right of its abbeys, to a Parliamentary vote in the Peers, it shall in such case be deprived of that vote, and send, instead thereof, a second representative to the Chamber of Commons.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 9. The list of the populations and representatives, already enrolled among the Acts, and framed upon the census of 1798, shall be placed, together with the rules above established, at the end of this Act, immediately after the list of the Peers.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 10. No person shall sit in the Chamber of Commons for more than one constituency, nor have more than one vote, and no member thereof shall delegate or transfer to another person the trust confided to him by his constituents.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER VI.

The following persons are declared incapable of representing any district, city, land, or university of learning :

§ 1. Foreigners of every nation, without exception.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. Persons who have not completed the age of twenty years.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. Persons who have been accused of a criminal offence, unless the accusation has been cancelled.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. The presidents and judges of all the tribunals, and all the magistrates, except those of the municipalities.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. The officers of the army and navy in actual service, from the rank of colonel downwards, except those who have an annual income of 300 ounces.

Vetat Regiæ Majestati.

§ 6. All persons holding subordinate appointments in the royal departments, customs, *segreteria*, and other branches of the public administration, as well as those who may be in receipt of pensions terminable at the pleasure of His Majesty.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 7. No person shall be qualified to represent a district, who has not in Sicily a clear annual income for life, issuing out of an absolute or beneficial estate (*diretto o utile dominio*), or in respect of some revenue or annuity derived from *dimessure, tonde*, or similar descriptions of property (but not out of any office held at the pleasure of the Crown), of 300 ounces per annum.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 8. No person shall be qualified to represent the city of Palermo, who has not a clear yearly income in Sicily, as above described, of 500 ounces.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 9. No person shall be qualified to represent a city, parliamentary land, or university, who has not in Sicily a clear annual income, as above described, of 150 ounces; with this limitation, however, that the representatives of the university shall be exempted from proving the said income, provided they occupy professional chairs in such universities.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 10. Every person who shall be elected as a representative either of a district, or of a city, or parliamentary land, must attend the Parliament at his own expense; but in case the universities shall be willing to contribute, out of their surplus funds, to the expenses incurred by their representatives in attending the Parliament, they shall be at liberty to do so; upon condition that the pecuniary assistance to be so given, respectively, shall not exceed the sum of one ounce per day, and that it be done with the consent of the Civic Council.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 11. All natural-born Sicilians, or sons of Sicilians resident in Sicily, in whom the aforesaid conditions shall be fulfilled, shall be entitled to be admitted into the Chamber of Commons, without regard to their rank or condition.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER VII.

§ 1. No persons shall be admitted as representatives into the Chamber of Commons, who are debtors to the State, — in like manner Peers, under similar circumstances, shall be deprived of their seats; subject to this restriction, however, that no one shall be deprived of his right of representation, in consequence of debts heretofore contracted with the State, provided the same shall have been arranged within four years; and all those sums which might have been due, but for the payment of which additional time may have been granted, shall not be considered as debts, except when they have not been liquidated at the expiration of such time; but with this proviso, that the executive power shall in no case be precluded from taking the necessary steps for the recovery of debts due to the national treasury.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. The exemption called *Ecezione Ostica* is declared to be abolished for the members of both Chambers, except so far as concerns the right of not being personally arrested, unless for certain crimes, which will be specified in the new Code.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

As regards the abolition of the *Ecezione Ostica* and the right of not being liable to personal arrest in civil matters; but in criminal matters, *Placet Regiæ Majestati*, only so far as concerns the crimes hereafter mentioned, punishable with banishment, until the new Code shall be drawn up and sanctioned.

CHAPTER VIII.

§ 1. The representatives of a district in the Chamber of Commons shall be elected by all who possess in that district a clear annual revenue for life of at least eighteen ounces, provided the same be derived from an absolute or beneficial estate (*diretto o utile dominio*), or from any rent or revenue from *bimestre* or *lande*, or similar kinds of property.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. The representatives of the city of Palermo shall be elected by all who possess in that city or its territory, a clear annual income for life of at least fifty ounces, provided the same issue out of an absolute or beneficial estate (*diretto o utile dominio*), or from any rent or revenue derived from *bimestre*, *lande*, or similar kinds of property: by all who hold for life in that city or its territory, a permanent public appointment, with a salary of at least one hundred ounces per annum: and finally, by the five Consuls (who have by ancient custom always enjoyed the privilege of electing the Procurator of the city of Palermo), by the single Consul, and by the chief of each of the legal bodies of artificers, provided they have a clear annual income of eighteen ounces.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. The representatives of every other city or parliamentary land shall be elected by all those who have, in such city or land or its territory, a clear annual income for life of at least eighteen ounces, provided the same be derived from an absolute or beneficial estate (*diretto o utile dominio*), or from any rent or revenue from *bimestre, tande*, or similar kinds of property.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. By all those who hold for life, in such city or land, a permanent public appointment of at least fifty ounces per annum; and by the Consuls and chiefs of artificers, provided they possess an annual income of nine ounces.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. Finally, the representatives of the two universities of learning shall be elected by the rector, the secretary, the body of professors, and the collegial doctors, of each of those universities.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 6. Every person who shall have an annual income, as above described, of eighteen ounces or upwards, shall be entitled to vote both for the election of the representatives of a city or land, and for that of the representatives of the district in which such city or land is included.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 7. The same qualifications as have been enumerated for the representatives are also required for the electors, with the sole exception of the difference in the amount of income.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER IX.

§ 1. The officers called *Capitani d'Arme*, or the *Capitani Giustizieri*, shall assist at the election of representatives in the Chamber of Commons for those places which belong to their respective jurisdiction, pursuant to the instructions which will in due time be communicated to them.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

The instructions having already been approved of.

§ 2. It shall be the peculiar office of the *Capitano d'Arme* of each district, and the *Capitano Giustiziere* of such city or parliamentary land, to keep the list of voters, the formation of which will hereinafter be described, and to summon such voters to attend the elections on the days appointed for that purpose.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. They shall likewise prevent all disorders and irregularities at the meetings, and decide, without appeal, at the moment, upon any doubt or controversy which may arise as to the legality of the votes and of the elections; and such decision, without appeal, is for the purpose of preventing at the time those disorders which might otherwise ensue; since the parties, who may consider themselves aggrieved by the proceedings and decisions of the *Capitani d'Arme* or *Giustizieri*, shall be at liberty, after the election, to refer their complaints to the Chamber of Commons, which shall have the exclusive right of deciding upon the legality or illegality of the election of its own members.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. Immediately after the election, the said officers shall announce the same to the Prothonotary, and shall also give a certificate thereof to the person elected.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. In case the representation of a district, city, or land, shall, from any cause whatever, become vacant, such district, city, or land, may proceed to a new election, according to the established forms; and it shall be the duty of every *Capitano d'Arme*, or *Capitano Giustiziere*, to issue orders for a new election, having first received legal notice of the same, as shall hereafter be described.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 6. At the elections of representatives of the two universities of learning of Palermo and Catania, the above-mentioned duties shall be performed by the respective rectors thereof, and, in their absence, by the senior professors.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 7. The *Capitani d'Arme* and the *Capitani Givatzieri*, and the two rectors of the universities of learning of Palermo and Catania, shall not interpose their opinions with respect to the qualifications above specified of the candidates to be elected representatives of the Chamber of Commons;—the duty of examining and deciding upon such qualifications appertaining, upon the conclusion of the election, in the first place to the Prothonotary, and afterwards, at the instance of the parties concerned, to the Chamber itself.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER X.

§ 1. The elections of the representatives of districts shall take place in the capitals of those districts.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. The elections of the representatives of cities and parliamentary lands shall take place in those cities and lands.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. Some public place or other open square shall always be selected for such meetings, at the discretion of the respective *Capitani*.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. It shall be competent for any elector to propose a candidate, but the election must fall upon him who obtains the greatest number of votes.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. Every elector must give his vote in person or by deputy, *alla voce*, to the chief notary (*maestro notaro*), and in the presence of the *Capitano* and his officers, who will register the same, according to the forms which will hereafter be established.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

The forms being already approved of.

§ 6. No Peer shall have the right of interfering in the election of members of the Chamber of Commons.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 7. The chief notary (*maestro notaro*) of the commune in which the election takes place, shall officiate during the election.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 8. No troops of any description whatever shall reside in the places of election, during the elections.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 9. If any armed force belonging to the ordinary garrison be stationed in one of such places of election, such force, with the exception of such part of it as is absolutely necessary for daily service, shall, two days before the day of election, remove at least two miles (*sigillo*) distance from the same, and shall not return until the expiration of two days after the election has terminated.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 10. No person holding a public appointment, or dependent upon the Crown, shall interfere in the said elections, under a penalty of 200 ounces and dismissal from his office.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 11. No candidate shall give money to the electors, nor feast or entertain them in any other manner, under a penalty of 200 ounces and the annulment of the election.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 12. The elections of the representatives of the two universities of Palermo and Catania shall be conducted conformably to the regulations above specified; and their respective secretaries shall, in the presence of the rectors, perform the functions of the chief notary (*maestro notaro*), by receiving and registering the votes of the professors.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 13. On the acceptance, by a member of the Chamber of Commons, of any office under the Crown, with the exception of a military appointment, he shall, *ipso facto*, vacate his seat; but it is competent for such member to be again elected, unless in the case of those appointments which are specified in Chapter VI, paragraph 6.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

All other functionaries not excepted in Chapter VI, paragraph 6, being eligible to seats.

CHAPTER XI.

§ 1. His Majesty alone shall possess the right to convoke, prorogue, and dissolve the Parliament.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. The King shall convoke the Parliament every year, as has already been sanctioned in Article IX.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. His Majesty shall, however, always convoke, prorogue, and dissolve the Parliament, with the advice of his Privy Council, the formation of which will be treated of hereafter.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. The duration of the representation in the Chamber of Commons shall be limited to four years, reckoning from the date of the convocation, after which it will expire, as a matter of course.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. The convocation of the Parliament shall be effected through the medium of the Prothonotary of the Kingdom, who shall declare His Majesty's pleasure to every Peer and to every representative of the Commons,—the King's order to this effect having been previously communicated by a competent Minister of State to the Prothonotary.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 6. Upon a renewal of the Chamber of Commons, the Prothonotary shall direct the *Capitani d'Arme*, the *Capitani Giustizieri*, and the rectors of the two Universities, to summon the electors, in order that they may proceed to the respective elections of their representatives to the Chamber of Commons within a given period, which shall be neither more nor less than forty days; and the same shall be done in accordance with the forms which will be hereafter described, the King's order to that effect having been previously communicated, through the medium of the competent Minister of State, to the Prothonotary.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 7. The Parliament shall be opened by His Majesty in the Chamber of Peers, either in person, or by one of the Peers commissioned for that purpose, who shall be required to take the oath of allegiance before two royal commissioners, according to the Catholic forms; and the Commons shall be present at the ceremony and shall remain standing behind the bar of the chamber.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 8. The King shall pronounce, or direct to be read, a speech adapted to the occasion, to which no member shall have the power of replying.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 9. His Majesty shall prorogue or dissolve the Parliament, either in person or by commission, with the same forms and ceremonies (the oath only excepted) as are prescribed for the opening of Parliament.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

With the understanding that when the Parliament is prorogued it shall be again assembled within a year of the time of its previous convocation, as is provided in paragraph 2 of this Chapter; and that when it is dissolved His Majesty will convoke another Parliament, to be composed of new members of the Chamber of Commons; and also that upon both occasions any discussion which may be pending shall be regarded as never having taken place.

CHAPTER XII.

§ 1. The throne shall always be erected in the Chamber of Peers, and be ascended by three steps.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. The King shall sit upon the throne on the day of the opening of the Parliament.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. The Princes of the Royal Family who are either spiritual or temporal Peers, and the archbishops, bishops, and other ecclesiastical dignitaries, according to their order of precedence, shall stand at his right hand, and the temporal Peers, according to their titles, on his left: the Commons shall remain standing opposite to the throne, and behind the bar, which will be situated at the extremity of the Chamber.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

With the understanding that the members composing the chief magistracy of the kingdom be in attendance upon such occasions, as well as the Junta of the *Presidenti* and *Consultori*, until the new magistracies are organised.

CHAPTER XIII.

§ 1. In the Chamber of Commons no member shall have any distinction or precedence whatever; but in the Chamber of Peers the same order of sitting shall be observed as at present, viz., that of the antiquity of each peerage; and all newly elected Peers (whatever may be their title) shall take the last place.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. The votes in both Chambers shall be given promiscuously, those for the affirmative repairing to the right hand, and those for the negative to the left hand of the respective Chamber.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER XIV.

§ 1. The President of the Chamber of Peers shall, in every Parliament, be selected by His Majesty from among the members of the Chamber itself; and the President of the Chamber of Commons shall be elected by the Chamber of Commons itself, and approved of by His Majesty.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. The election of the President of the Chamber of Commons shall take place on the day after the solemn opening of Parliament, on which occasion the Prothonotary of the Kingdom shall preside.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. This election shall be effected by secret voting, and can fall only upon a member of the Chamber of Commons.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER XV.

§ 1. The President of each Chamber shall possess the following prerogatives and attributes:

He shall occupy a distinguished seat;

He shall answer and speak in the name of the Chamber, whenever occasion may require;

He shall open the deliberations;

He shall determine the time for taking the votes, and after the same shall have been counted by the secretary, shall announce the result;

He shall decide definitively on all controversies which may arise among the members as to priority in speaking;

He shall restore silence and order, in the event of animosities and disturbances in the Chamber; and in case any member shall not immediately obey, the Chamber shall punish him by a vote of censure, verbally or in writing, or with a more severe admonition or punishment, in proportion to his contumacy and culpability.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. The President shall have a vote only when the numbers are equal.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. He shall have the management of the expenditure and superintend the regulations and police of the Chamber.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. He shall execute and sign all decrees, in the name of the Chamber.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. He may reprimand any member whenever he may think proper, but not in harsh or offensive terms; he may threaten with punishment, but cannot inflict any without the consent of the Chamber.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 6. He shall himself be liable, in the same manner as other members, to the censure and punishment of the Chamber, which in extreme cases may even extend to dismissal from office and expulsion from the Chamber.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER XVI.

§ 1. No judge or magistrate shall ever interrogate, proceed against, arrest, or pronounce or execute a sentence against the members of either Chamber individually or collectively, for anything spoken, done, discussed, or resolved upon in Parliament, under the penalty of 1000 ounces, the forfeiture of every description of public employment, and banishment to an island for the term of ten years.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. His Majesty, in the execution of such sentence, shall be precluded from granting a pardon or any mitigation of punishment to delinquents; nor shall the latter be permitted to plead any order or commission of His Majesty, in justification or extenuation of their offence.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. The Chambers alone shall take cognizance of any excesses committed by their members, respectively, within the same, and shall have the sole and exclusive right of punishing them by votes of censure, delivered *virâ voce*, or registered in the proceedings, by imprisonment, or prohibition from attending Parliament, and by still severer punishments, as will be declared in the new Criminal Code.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER XVII.

§ 1. Each of the two Presidents shall appoint the chancellor of his Chamber, who shall enjoy an annual salary of 400 ounces.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

As regards the appointment, but subject to the understanding that they shall be appointed by the King upon the nomination of the respective Presidents.

§ 2. Each of the two chancellors shall appoint two secretaries, who shall enjoy an annual salary of 150 ounces each, and the other subordinate officers whom the Chambers shall think necessary.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. The two Presidents shall appoint an usher for each Chamber, with an annual salary of 100 ounces.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. The two chancellors, with their secretaries, shall register, in a clear and distinct manner, the proceedings of their respective Chambers, and count and announce the votes; and they shall have the custody of the respective registers.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

Subject to the royal sanction expressed in paragraph 1 of this Chapter.

§ 5. The Prothonotary of the Kingdom shall keep the archives of all the resolutions of the Parliament, whether sanctioned or not, in an office situate within the House of Parliament.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 6. In addition to the above-named officers, there shall be in the Chamber of Commons a *Capitain d'Ordre*, who shall be appointed by the President of the Chamber; and who shall maintain the police of the same, and have the charge of the door. It shall be his special duty to execute the commands of the Chamber itself, upon receiving the authority of the President in writing to that effect, in matters which exclusively concern the said Chamber, and he shall enjoy an annual salary of 150 ounces. The President of the Chamber of Peers shall also appoint a similar officer, conformably to the Constitution of England, who shall enjoy the same salary.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

As regards the appointments, but they must be made by the King, at the nomination of the Prothonotary, until an office analogous to that of Lord Great Chamberlain has been established by His Majesty.

§ 7. The messages from one Chamber to the other shall be conveyed by three or more members, as may be determined by the Chambers respectively.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 8. It shall be the duty of the ushers to preserve order in the Chambers, to attend at the doors of the same during the sittings, in order to exclude all persons who have not a right to enter, and to perform such other services as occasion may require.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 9. None of the above-named officers shall be dismissed, except in consequence of a dereliction of duty, or for other misconduct.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 10. There shall be a printing office under the authority of the Parliament, and within the walls of the building. The expenses of the establishment shall be added to those above mentioned.

Vetat Regiæ Majestas.

§ 11. The direction of the same shall depend immediately and exclusively upon the Presidents of the two Chambers, who shall alone give orders for printing the resolutions and acts, according to the determination of the respective Chambers.

Vetat Regiæ Majestas.

§ 12. Accommodation shall be afforded in the Chambers for persons who are not members thereof.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 13. Such persons shall be admitted by tickets signed by a member, or by the President of the respective Chamber.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 14. A member shall issue only one ticket, and the President only two.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 15. All persons who shall be admitted are forbidden to carry arms or sticks, to clap their hands, to speak aloud, or to commit any other act of indecorum, upon pain, not only of being expelled from the Chamber, but also of being taken into custody; and when the Chamber shall resolve itself into a Secret Committee, no strangers shall be permitted to remain.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER XVIII.

§ 1. It shall be competent for a member of either of the Chambers to propose, in the Chamber to which he belongs, any proposition that he may think proper.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. Projects of law which are presented to the Chambers in writing, shall be read and discussed in three different sittings, previous to their being finally considered and decided upon. The respective Chamber, in order maturely to examine such projects, may appoint a Committee, which shall make its report, containing its opinions upon the project, to the Chamber itself; the members of the chief tribunal of the kingdom may also be

present during the proceedings in the Chamber of Peers, but must sit in a place apart from its members, and behind the President; they shall not speak upon any other subject than that upon which their opinion is desired, and shall only have a consultative voice, agreeably to the Constitution of England.

Placet Regia Majestati;

But subject to the understanding that, agreeably to what has been declared in Chapter XII, paragraph 3, the members of the Chief Magistracy shall be summoned to every new Parliament, in order that they may attend the sittings of the Chamber of Peers, and give a purely consultative voice on every judicial question.

§ 3. The whole Chamber, for the same object, may resolve itself into a Secret Committee, and introduce into the project those corrections and amendments which it may think requisite, without the usual formalities.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 4. Either of the Chambers may adjourn its sittings, discussions, and decisions, at pleasure.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 5. No measure which has been rejected by either of the Chambers can be again proposed until the session of the following year.

Placet Regia Majestati.

CHAPTER XIX.

§ 1. Every proposition relating to the supplies and taxes must be originated in the Chamber of Commons.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 2. The Chamber of Peers shall only have the right to assent to or dissent from the proposition, and shall not alter or modify it in any manner whatever.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 3. All propositions which may in their consequences affect the rights of the Peerage, must be originated in the Chamber of Peers, and can receive no modification in the Chamber of Commons, which shall only have the right to assent to or dissent from the same.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 4. His Majesty cannot interpose in, nor take cognizance of, any propositions pending in the Chambers of Parliament; and they cannot, until they have been adopted by both Chambers, be presented to His Majesty, in order to receive his absolute *Placet* or *Veto*.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 5. His Majesty shall give his *Placet* or *Veto*, with the advice of his Privy Council, either by royal rescript or *vivâ voce*, in the Chamber of Peers, where the members of the Chamber of Commons shall also assemble, as above described.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 6. Whenever His Majesty shall give his royal sanction verbally, and shall repair to the Chamber of Peers for that purpose, the members of the Chamber of Commons shall also be in attendance and stand below the bar, the Prothonotary shall read with an audible voice the articles decided upon by the Parliament, and the chancellor of the Chamber of Peers shall pronounce the *Placet* or *Veto*, as shall have been decreed by the King.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 7. The Chancellor shall inscribe the *Placet* or *Veto* at the end of every article, in order that after having been rendered obligatory by the signature of the Prothonotary of the Kingdom and by the royal seal affixed to them, the originals may be preserved among the archives of the Parliament and of the Prothonotary respectively.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 8. Neither Chamber can interfere in or take cognizance of any proposition whilst under discussion or pending in the other.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 9. But in case the two Chambers shall agree upon some, and differ upon other points of the same proposition, each of them may depute a certain number of its members to confer with those of the other, and thereby endeavor to reconcile their opinions and bring the Chambers to an agreement and to a conformity of votes.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER XX.

In the Chamber of Peers, at least thirty members shall be present to form a House; and in the Chamber of Commons, at least sixty. When the President of either Chamber shall perceive that less than the respective number of members is present, he shall adjourn the sitting until the next day, or to any other day that may have been previously appointed.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER XXI.

The two Chambers of Parliament may fix different days for their sittings; it not being necessary that both Chambers should sit upon the same day.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER XXII.

Every Sicilian citizen who is not a member of Parliament may present a petition, complaint, or project of law, to Parliament, for himself or on behalf of the public, through one of its members: if such petition, complaint, or project, relate to a public object, the member of either of the Chambers who shall be entrusted with the same shall not be prevented from reading it aloud to the Chamber: if it relate to a private object, it must be referred to a committee, which shall decide whether it shall be received or rejected.

Vetat Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Every Peer shall have the right to enter upon the Journal of the Chamber his protest^r and the reasons upon which it is founded, whenever the Chamber may have come to a resolution contrary to his sentiments.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

CHAPTER XXIV.

§ 1. Any member of either of the Chambers who may be accused, must quit the same immediately, and shall not enter it again until he is summoned to the bar or the accusation be cancelled.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

Whenever the accusation shall be made through the Report of a Committee, and not merely by a motion.

§ 2. The injunctions of the Chambers shall be executed by means of the ushers.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. The Chamber of Commons, after having determined to enquire into the accusation, shall proceed to obtain the proofs and documents necessary for the process; and shall transmit the accusation, accompanied by such proofs and documents, to the Chamber of Peers, which shall thereupon proceed to the trial (*coapilare il processo*), and afterwards to the sentence or condemnation of the accused.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

As regards ordinary offences only; but in cases of malversation, the Chamber of Commons shall only make the accusation, and all subsequent proceedings shall be taken by the Peers.

§ 4. Either of the Chambers shall have the right of ordering any person to be taken into custody, who may have been guilty of any insult or outrage towards it; but if the investigation should not be completed before the Parliament closes, it must be referred to the ordinary tribunals.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

To the effect that, after the arrest has taken place, the complaint shall be referred to the ordinary tribunal (whenever a trial may be necessary), in order that it may enter upon the same and pronounce its final sentence thereon; subject however to the understanding that those persons who may have been arrested and not given over to the ordinary tribunals, shall, upon the dissolution or prorogation of Parliament, be immediately liberated.

CHAPTER XXV.

§ 1. All the Peers are equal in right; they are the hereditary counsellors of the Crown.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. The Peers their wives and widows, unless they shall contract a second marriage, as well as the heirs to peerages, shall, in criminal matters, be tried by the Chamber of Peers, according to the forms which will hereafter be established.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

His Majesty reserving to himself the declaration of his royal opinion upon the forms to be established.

§ 3. The Peerage is limited solely to the heads of families.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. The Peers shall give their testimony upon honour, and not upon oath, like the Commons.

Placet Regiæ Majestati;

As to judgments pronounced by the Peers; but when they give evidence as witnesses, or are criminally prosecuted, they shall be put upon their oath, both in civil and criminal causes.

ON CIVIC COUNCILS

AND MUNICIPAL MAGISTRACIES.

CHAPTER I.

All matters of a public nature, and affecting the interests of the communes of the kingdom, shall be managed and administered by a Council and Municipal Magistrate in the form and manner hereunder described:

§ 1. All those persons who have the privilege of voting at the election of the representatives of the different populations and cities of the kingdom in the Chamber of Commons, shall be the natural members of the Council of those populations and cities, whether they be natives or have acquired the citizenship of the same commune.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 2. Such Councils shall not, however, consist of more than sixty, or less than thirty members for each commune. But as regards all those cities which may send to Parliament more than one representative, the number of members forming the Council of such cities shall be increased in the proportion of ten members for each representative so sent to Parliament.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 3. If the number of the members of a Council should be less than thirty, that number shall be completed by the addition to the Council, under the name of *aggregati*, of those citizens of the place who may enjoy the greatest confidence.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 4. If, however, the said members should exceed sixty in number, they shall select from among themselves every three years sixty persons, who shall form the Civic Council.

Placet Regiæ Majestati.

§ 5. It shall be one of the rights and duties of the Civic Council to establish such a system of public corn (*pubblica annona*) as it may deem most conducive to the general welfare of the commune.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 6. It shall not, however, for such purpose, without the authority of the Parliament, impose taxes, order forced loans, demand a preference in contracts of purchase and sale, prohibit or restrict the import or export of any goods or merchandise whatever, prevent the free supply of bread (*panificazione*) among individuals, or generally violate and restrain the sacred right of property of any one whatever.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 7. Forced loans shall, however, be permitted only in the most urgent cases of actual scarcity, fire, plague, floods, earthquakes, and the incursion of enemies, the right being reserved to every one who may consider himself aggrieved thereby of preferring suitable claims to the Parliament.

But no charge shall be made in any one of the above cases, or in any other, either directly or indirectly, upon the property of any description whatever belonging to persons who are not inhabitants of the commune.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 8. The contributions usually levied upon the production of corn, under the so-called name of *Terze Parti*, shall be abolished from the next harvest after the Royal sanction.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 9. It shall be the duty of each commune to provide for its supply of corn by means of a reserved fund, which shall be formed or maintained by a tax founded on the assessments made by order of the Parliament in 1810; which tax shall be levied once for all on the proprietors in the possession of lands belonging to the territories of the respective communes, and shall not exceed the rate of 5 per centum; it being, however, obligatory on those on whose account any assessments may be amended, to contribute, in addition, whatever they ought to have paid from the outset, in furtherance of the said imposition.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 10. Direct and intermediate domains (*Domini diretti, intermedi*) shall continue to be exempt from the above contribution; and in like manner all those lands, the proprietors of which have, as a precautionary measure, redeemed them from such a tax, shall continue to be equally exempt from the payment of it.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 11. All those communes which have provided for the fund (*peculio*) in any other manner, shall not be included in the present law.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 12. The Civic Council shall fix the proportion of the tax, not exceeding the rate of 5 per centum, according to the circumstances of the place.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 13. The Civic Council shall also determine upon the mode of administering the said fund (*peculio*), the absolute responsibility of all the council remaining unchanged.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 14. Every proprietor who is to contribute as above shall be bound to deposit his quota during the month of May in the coming year, 1813; but as regards theiefs which are rapable in part of producing corn, and have been taxed for several years in money, the above contribution shall be paid by the person who is liable to the payment of such tax, and who shall be indemnified out of the amount of the tax due by him, less that rate which is to be contributed by himself according to the following proportion.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 15. The tax which is to be imposed upon such estate shall be divided into twenty shares, and the party subject to the payment shall be bound to contribute as many twentieths as may be the number of the years of the continuance of the tax, reckoning from the day of its imposition.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 16. It shall be the province of the Civic Council to propose the means of providing for the necessary wants of its own commune, or to fix the amount of the so-called *congrua* duties, it being, however, understood that as regards any increase of the revenues,

by means of new communal duties, that cannot be effected without the knowledge and approbation of the Parliament.

But no charge shall be made in any one of the above cases, or in any other, either directly or indirectly, upon the property of any description whatever belonging to persons who are not inhabitants of the commune.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 17. It shall also be the province of the Civic Council to superintend the revenues and expenses of the commune, and to manage those public institutions and works which are devoted to the necessities, accommodation, and ornament of the commune itself.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 18. It shall further be the province of the Civic Council to elect the municipal magistrate and audit his accounts every year.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 19. To this end there shall be nominated by the Council, at the close of every period fixed upon, five of its members, who shall examine and discuss the contents of those accounts in the presence either of the said magistrate or of persons delegated by him, and upon the report and opinion of such five members, the Council shall proceed to decide after mature deliberation, as to the approval or disapproval of them.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 20. Approval by a solemn act having been given by the Council, the municipal magistrate shall not be liable to any further examination and complaint on account of the administration during the previous year.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 21. But in the event of disapproval or censure being pronounced by the Council, the five members before mentioned shall, in the name of the commune, prefer their accusation to, and proceed to obtain the suitable punishment from, the ordinary magistrates. The municipal magistrate and all the administrators and assistants, so far as coming within the degree of suspicion which will be declared in the new Code, shall not be allowed to vote at the election of the five members to be appointed auditors, or at the examination and investigation of their administration.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 22. The Council of every city or population in the kingdom shall meet regularly once a month, and, as an extraordinary measure, as often as the municipal magistrate shall require it.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 23. The *capitano giustiziere* shall have the right to convoke and to preside over the Council; and in the event of an equality of votes he shall have the casting vote.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 24. The accounts of the municipal administration in all its branches shall be printed and published every year, and the books be open for general inspection.

Placet Regie Majestati.

CHAPTER II.

§ 1. The municipal magistracy of every population shall consist of the same number of members, who shall retain the same denomination of Senators, or *Giorati*, and the same exterior distinctions of honour which they may have previously enjoyed.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. All the municipal magistrates shall be elected by the Civic Councils in the month of May 1813, now next ensuing; and the elections of such municipal magistrates shall be conducted by means of the ballot, and shall be decided according to the majority of votes.

And, during the month of May in every year, the Council shall change only one of the members of such municipal magistracy, and shall appoint another in his place, so that the duration in office of each individual composing it shall be for as many years as may be the number of its members.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 3. But as under such a regulation all the members will not during the first period be in office for the same length of time, it shall be decided by lot every year which

of them is to retire; and, after the expiration of that period, the member who has been the longest time in office shall retire.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 4. The municipal magistrates shall be elected from among those proprietors in the commune who may be of good character and means.

Those who may be interested in public leases shall be excluded.

The so-called *mastre-serrate* shall be abolished.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 5. Those members who may be elected shall, immediately after their election, enter upon the duties of their office.

Placet Regia Majestati.

It shall be the prerogative and province of the said municipal magistrates,—

§ 6.—I. To represent immediately the commune.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 7.—II. To take charge of all the objects of public safety, with that authority and dependence upon the principal and general magistracy of safety, as shall be arranged in the new plan of magistracy and in the new Code.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 8.—III. To elect the customary subaltern officers of the commune, with the power of removing them.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 9.—IV. To administer all the revenues of the commune.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 10.—V. To execute all the orders of the Civic Council with respect to corn and any other branch of public economy.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 11.—VI. To see that the new metrical system is observed in conformity with the code printed at Catania in the current year 1812, with such powers of jurisdiction and dependence as may hereafter be enacted by the Parliament.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 12. The office of Syndic shall be abolished, and the *Proconservadore* shall no longer interfere with the municipal magistrates.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 13. No authority shall be permitted to interfere with and regulate the proceedings of any council and municipal magistracy.

Vetat Regia Majestas.

§ 14. Every citizen, however, shall have the right to prefer his complaints against and accuse both, before the ordinary magistrates, on account of the illegality of any of their decisions or proceedings.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 15. Every citizen shall also be at liberty, if he pleases, to refer his complaints and remonstrances upon the same subject to the ordinary tribunals.

Placet Regia Majestati.

CHAPTER III.

§ 1. The export and import of articles of merchandise of every description, from and to one place to and from any other place in the kingdom, shall be absolutely free.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 2. No municipal magistrate or other authority shall prevent the free circulation of commodities, under the pretext of public necessity and utility.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 3. All the internal customs duties, of every description whatever in the kingdom, and those called *segrezie*, shall, in like manner, be abolished; subject, however, to the payment of compensation, according to the value or proceeds, to those individuals who may be actually in possession, with an onerous title, of the said *segrezie* and customs' duties, or the proceeds of them, and under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Parliament. But from the period when the proprietor is indemnified, his right to levy those duties, which he may have previously levied, shall be annulled.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 4. The offices of the chief physicians of the kingdom (*Protomedici*) shall be abolished; with the understanding, however, that such abolition shall be effected as soon as a new medical police has been substituted for them, according to the new Civil Code about to be compiled.

His Majesty reserves to himself to issue his supreme decisions, as soon as he shall have examined how far this article has been provided for in the new Code of the Civil and Criminal Laws.

§ 5. The visitors who are every year appointed by the *Protomedico* in the kingdom, shall in like manner be abolished; with the understanding, however, that such abolition shall be effected as soon as a new medical police has been substituted for them, according to the new Civil Code about to be compiled.

His Majesty reserves to himself to issue his supreme decision, as soon as he shall have examined how far this article has been provided for in the new Code of the Civil and Criminal Laws.

ON THE CORN FUND OF PALERMO.

The Parliament, having been occupied in establishing in every city and land the separate fund (*pecunia*), if not already existing, has deemed it right to occupy itself with the establishment of a corn fund (*colonna annonaria*) for the capital; and it has recalled to mind that in the general assemblies held in the year 1648, when, in order to repair the want of an equilibrium of those times, the so-called *nuove gabelle* (new duties) were imposed upon wine, flour, barley, oil, and other commodities, it was determined by the Civic Council, that every citizen of Palermo, without any exception of persons, even of the privileged class and descendants of royal blood, should pay precisely the same imposts.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 1. Certain immunities and exceptions having, however, in course of time been introduced contrary to and in abuse of the directions of the said Civic Council in favour of the royal court and of the army, which amount at present to about 16,000 ounces every year, according to the result of an average of four years, the Parliament has determined that all similar exemptions should be abolished from the 1st of January of the next year, 1813, and that the said sum should accumulate, together with other sums which will be indicated hereafter, until they amount to the sum of 200,000 ounces.

Placet Regie Majestati.

§ 2. The Parliament has, however, reflected that it was determined by the same Civic Council, that the balances of the said revenue, when verified, should be employed in extinguishing the capitals of the *soggiogazioni*; and that, at the present day, such balances amount to the sum of about 20,000 ounces annually.

The Parliament has not failed to have presented to it the different decrees issued from time to time by the Government, with reference to those balances; but, confining itself to the sentence of the arbitrators between the committee of new taxes and the creditors *soggiogatori bimestrali*, which was published by the Duke of Lucchesi, at that time *Pretor*, and by the Marquis D. Donato Tommasi, at that time *Conservator-General*, and was approved by His Majesty in his edict of 10th July, 1808, and was printed, the Parliament has now learnt that in the said sentence it is prescribed that one portion of the sum of 12,590 ounces should be employed as compensation for the four *annate di attrasso* on the said *soggiogazioni*, and the other in redemption of the said *bimestrali*.

From which it follows that of the said 20,000 ounces there remain 7000 ounces annually, as has been stated above, to form the amount of the balance; which 7000 ounces it has been customary to transfer to the Senate, to aid in the payment of its corn debts (*debiti annonarii*), as directed in the royal edict of 2nd July, 1810.

As, however, in virtue of a royal rescript of 6th of August of the current year, 1812, the entire collection of the first and second *tari* of the new impost has been granted to the said Senate, in order that they may thereby have the means of satisfying their debts; and as His Majesty has declared in the said rescript, that he reserves to himself to provide in future respecting the balances of the new taxes, the Parliament has determined that the

said 7000 ounces, and whatever amount of balance there may be upon the said 7000 ounces, shall be added every year to the 16,000 ounces above expressed, in order to form the prescribed fund of 200,000 ounces; and that this shall commence from the current year, beginning on the 1st July, 1812, to the 30th June of the following year, 1813, which forms the so-called *anno pretorio*.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 3. The Parliament moreover notifies that by a resolution of the Civic Council on 12th June of the current year, 1812, which has been approved by His Majesty under his rescript of the 16th of that month, the tax on the *polizza del maciao* is to be increased by six additional *tari*, for which an offer of 23,000 ounces per annum has already been made. This imposition having been laid with a view to reimburse the Senate for the loss which they are incurring in the actual supply of bread (*panificazione*), from selling it at that price, which the cost of the corn would not warrant, the Parliament has decided that from the day when the Senate is fully indemnified for the loss in question, the committee of new taxes shall be charged with the collection of the said 23,000 ounces per annum, on account of the said increase on the *maciao*, as being the authority which collects that tax, as well as all the other civic taxes; and that the said 23,000 ounces shall be added to the two portions indicated above, and composing the sum of about 23,000 every year, in order to complete with the utmost expedition the sum of 200,000 ounces for the corn fund (*colonna annuaria*).

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 4. As the committee of new taxes receives, from time to time, sums on account of such corn fund, they shall be paid over to the municipal magistrate for the object stated.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 5. Whenever such an amount has been realized, the above-mentioned increase of six *tari* on the *maciao* shall be abolished, and any surplus shall be devoted to the object fixed by the Council in 1648, viz., the extinction of the capitals of the *soggiogazioni* on the city of Palermo.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 6. With a view, however, that the fund may always amount to the sum fixed, viz., 200,000 ounces, and not be devoted to any other purpose than the purchase of corn on those seasonable opportunities when it can be bought at a moderate price, the Parliament has resolved that the municipal magistrate to whom, according to the tenor of the new Constitution the charge of the corn fund is entrusted, and the receipts arising from sales at the current price, shall pay into the treasury of the fund as he sells, from time to time, whatever sums he may receive for the purchase of the corn above mentioned.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 7. If, in the period which most elapse before the sum of 200,000 ounces is realized, the municipal magistrate should think of using any sum for the object above indicated, the Parliament may authorize him to do it, but under the conditions above expressed.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 8. In all other cases, however, he shall never be allowed to withdraw any sum from the treasury of the said fund, even in those of plague, flood, earthquake, and fire, in which the Parliament has resolved that the municipal magistrate of the city of Palermo shall provide against and meet pressing wants in some other manner, the stability of the corn fund being always maintained.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 9. The said municipal magistrate shall take care that in the official books of his department a separate account is opened, headed "*Colonna Annuaria*;" and it shall be his particular duty to execute exactly whatever has been prescribed by the Parliament with reference to such a charge, not less than by the Civic Council, the full responsibility of which shall rest entirely with the said municipal magistrate, so that the said corn fund be not diminished in amount, or be employed otherwise than for the object expressed.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 10. At the end of every year, however, the municipal magistrate shall present to the Civic Council an account of such administration, and print it for public information.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 11. But the Civic Council, in conformity with what has been stated in the first chapter on the Civic Councils, shall depote five of its members to examine the said account, in order that, after a report has been made upon it, the Civic Council may proceed to approve or disapprove of it.

Placet Regia Majestati.

§ 12. In the latter case, the five members above mentioned shall lay their complaints before the ordinary tribunals, at the charge of those who have been wanting in their duty.

Placet Regia Majestati.

INSTRUCTIONS

Respecting the 9th Chapter on the Legislative Power, as to the forms of electing the Representatives to the Chamber of Commons.

No. 1. As soon as Chapter IX on the Legislative Power has been sanctioned, it shall be the duty of the *Capitani* of each village, land, or city, to cause to be published, by means of placards, that any person who may prove to the satisfaction of the *Capitani* of the commune and of three of the members of the Civic Council, that he is in possession of a net annual revenue of eighteen ounces, shall be entitled to give his vote for the election of the deputy or deputies of the same commune and of those of the district.

The said three members of the Civic Council shall be elected by the same Council by ballot, as soon as the order for convoking the Parliament has been published. They shall be called *Squittinatari* (Scrutineers).

Placet Regia Majestati.

No. 2. The same process shall also be observed by the ministers of parishes and by the archpriests, only *visá voce*, and in the respective churches and parishes.

Placet Regia Majestati.

No. 3. The manner in which the election of the Deputies mentioned is to be conducted, and the qualifications required of them, shall in like manner be published by the parties before alluded to.

Placet Regia Majestati.

No. 4. The parochial minister, or the archpriest of every village or land, and the parochial ministers, or the archpriests of the respective quarters in the large towns, shall prepare a list of all those persons who state that they possess the qualifications required of the electors, and shall transmit copies of it, certified by them, to the *Capitani* and to the three scrutineers of the place.

Placet Regia Majestati.

No. 5. It shall be the peculiar province of the respective *Capitani* and scrutineers to examine and certify *gratis*, if the qualifications prescribed for the electors are or are not possessed by the claimants to the right of election, and, those qualifications having been found to be correct, to furnish them, also *gratis*, with a certificate to that effect, under the seals of the *Capitani* and of the Civic Council.

Placet Regia Majestati.

No. 6. It shall, moreover, be the duty of the before-mentioned scrutineers and *Capitani* to prepare a register, which is to be subscribed by them, of all those electors who may be acknowledged as such in the manner pointed out, to preserve the same among the archives of the Civic Council, and to transmit copies of it, under their signatures and authenticated by their seals, to the *Capitani* and to the three scrutineers of the principal place.

Placet Regia Majestati.

No. 7. As soon as the *Capitani* of every village, land, or town, shall have received an order from the Prothonotary of the Kingdom for the election of the deputies of the communes, he shall immediately cause it to be proclaimed by the public crier. He shall also cause a notification to be conveyed in the same manner to all the electors of the commune, that they are to present themselves before him and the three scrutineers within the space of three days, in order to be acknowledged by them, and to obtain in consequence a certificate of their right to elect as well the deputy or deputies of the place as those of the district.

He shall in like manner cause to be published the place where, and the day and the hour when, the election of the deputy or deputies of the place will be proceeded with; and that, as soon as the election of such deputy or deputies shall have terminated, the electors must repair to the principal place, in order to give personally or by proxy their vote for the election of the deputies of the district.

Placet Regia Majestati.

No. 8. The place appointed for such meeting shall be open and spacious, and the day of meeting shall be the fourth next succeeding that of the publication of the notice.

Placet Regia Majestati;

With the understanding that, in conformity with the spirit of § 3 of Chapter X, on the Legislative Power, the place be either the Senate House (*Casa Senatoria*),

or the Hall (*Sala*) of the Civic Council, appointed for the election of the *Capitano Giustiziere*; and that, for the greater convenience of the voters, the meeting do continue for the space of eight days, reckoning from the day of the publication of the notice.

No. 9. As soon as the notices mentioned under No. 7 of these instructions, shall have been made public, the Civic Council shall assemble, in order to proceed to the election of the scrutineers in the manner stated under No. 1.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 10. It shall be the duty of the chief notary (*maestro notaro*) to write down and register the votes of the electors, and to prepare the certificates and whatever else may be necessary for the electors and for the deputies.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 11. The *Capitani* and the scrutineers shall cause to be affixed, on the next and succeeding days, in the public places, the list of the names of the candidates or of the claimants to a seat in the Parliament, and to transmit copies of it under their hands and seals to the *Capitano d'arme*, and to the scrutineers of the principal place.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 12. It shall be the duty of the *Capitano* and of the three scrutineers respectively to give to each of the electors two printed tickets, sealed with the seals of the *Capitano* and of the Civic Council, and having the name of the electors on one side.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 13. The electors shall be provided with these tickets, in order that they may be able to prove to the *Capitano* and to the scrutineers of the commune and to those of the district, at the time when they are superintending the election of the deputies, their right to vote at the said elections.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 14. The election of the deputy or deputies of each commune having been completed, all the electors shall repair, within the space of three days, to the principal places respectively, in order to elect the deputies of that district.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 15. The election of the above-mentioned deputies shall be conducted in the following manner:—

The *Capitano* and the scrutineers shall preside at the election of the deputies of each commune, and the *Capitano d'arme* and the scrutineers of the principal place shall preside at that of the deputy of the district.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 16. The above parties in both cases respectively shall superintend the receipt of the votes by the chief notary (*maestro notaro*).

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 17. And they shall sit at a table in a tribune expressly erected in the place destined for the said election.

Placet Regie Majestati;

But during the course of the eight days before mentioned, when it will be their duty to receive the votes which the electors shall present in succession to them, they shall sit in the morning from 9 o'clock till mid-day, and in the afternoon from 2 o'clock till sunset.

No. 18. The register of all the electors of each separate commune shall be on the table mentioned, in case of necessity.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 19. The *Capitano d'arme*, however, and the scrutineers of the principal places, who preside at the election of the deputies of their districts, shall have before them the register of the names of all the places forming the said districts.

Placet Regie Majestati.

No. 20. As soon as the electors are assembled in the prescribed place, the *Capitano* shall order that the voting be commenced.

Vetat Regia Majestas, provided the modifications submitted under Nos. 8 and 17 be allowed.

No. 21. Upon which each elector, advancing in his turn to the tribune, shall place upon the table one of the two tickets mentioned under No. 12, and shall pronounce aloud and in the same order the name and surname of the candidate selected by him.

Placet Regia Majestati;

Provided all this be done during the course of the eight days mentioned under No. 8.

No. 22. On the first occasion, in the event of the *Capitani d'arme* not being present, the *Capitani giustizieri* of the principal towns of the districts shall act in the above manner instead of them.

Placet Regia Majestati.

No. 23. The chief notary (*maestro notaro*) shall write the votes of the electors under the names of those of the candidates in whose favour they may have been given, and shall for this purpose assign to each of the latter a column in the book in which the votes are written.

Placet Regia Majestati.

No. 24. The election shall last for the period of three days at the most; and, as soon as the voting is concluded each day, the total number of votes given for each candidate shall be ascertained by the *Capitano* and by the scrutineers of the place, and these totals shall then be signed by the said *Capitano* and scrutineers.

Placet Regia Majestati;

Provided the period be regulated according to the proposition under No. 5.

No. 25. On the expiration of the three days, the total number of votes which each of the candidates may have obtained in the above period, shall be ascertained, and there shall be given to each of those who may have been elected by a plurality of votes, a certificate to that effect, signed by the *Capitano*, the scrutineers, and the chief notary of the place (*maestro notaro*), and verified by the seals of the said *Capitano* and of the Civic Council.

Placet Regia Majestati;

The prescribed period of eight days being substituted.

No. 26. During the election, or after the conclusion of it, the chief notary (*maestro notaro*) shall not refuse to furnish any of the candidates or of the electors with a copy, certified by him, of the lists of the votes which he has taken, but for such copy the latter shall pay the fees.

Placet Regia Majestati.

No. 27. It shall be the duty of the *Capitano* of each village, land, or town, to prevent disorders and irregularities, and to decide at the time and without appeal any doubt and dispute which may arise as to the election. It shall, however, be competent for the parties who may feel themselves aggrieved, to refer the matter, when the election is terminated, to the Prothonotary, and subsequently to the Chamber of Commons, whose province it shall be to decide whether or not the disputed election should be recommenced, and if the member already elected should sit in the Chamber during the progress of the new election.

Placet Regia Majestati.

No. 28. The *Capitani* as well as the scrutineers shall not be allowed to interfere in the examination of the qualifications required for the candidates; such examination, after the termination of the election, being the province of the Prothonotary, and subsequently of the Chamber of the Commons.

Placet Regia Majestati.

No. 29. All the above instructions, when they have been voted and concluded, shall not be incorporated with the new Constitutions, but shall be merely transmitted to the Prothonotary of the Kingdom, in order that he may promulgate them throughout the kingdom.

Votat Regia Majestas.

DECREE RESPECTING THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

§ 1. Every one shall be free to print or publish his own ideas, without requiring any permission, and without being obliged to submit them previously for revision, from the time when His Majesty may give his sanction to the present chapter.

Placet.

§ 2. Those writings alone which are upon matters of religion shall continue to be subject to the previous censorship of the ordinary ecclesiastical authorities, as has been established by the Council of Trent; it being understood that in all such writings are included those which treat absolutely of the dogmas and forms of worship of the Roman Catholic Apostolic Christian Religion, the Christian Catechisms, and the versions and interpretations of the Old and New Testaments.

Placet.

All writings on dogmatical and moral theology still continuing to be subject to the same censorship, whether they treat directly or indirectly on those subjects; and the same being also understood with respect to all those works of the nature expressed in this paragraph, which may be introduced from abroad.

It shall be an offence to publish writings of the following character:—

§ 3.—I. Those which contain articles against the Roman Catholic Apostolic Religion, and against good manners;

Placet.

§ 4.—II. Those in which the person of the King, declared inviolable, is offended;

Placet.

§ 5.—III. Those in which an individual of the Royal Family is offended;

Placet.

§ 6.—IV. Those which may tend to destroy directly the bases of the Constitution of the year 1812, which are as follow:—the division of power in the manner already sanctioned, by which the legislative power is reposed in the Parliament, divided into two Chambers, one of the Peers and the other of the Commons; the executive power is reposed in the King; and the judicial power is reposed in the magistrates:—that the Parliament alone has the right of imposing the taxes:—that the public functionaries are responsible to the Parliament: and that no one can be arrested and punished, except in conformity to the laws and by virtue of the orders and sentences of the ordinary magistrates;

Placet.

With the understanding that the legislative power be taken in the same sense as is expressed under No. 1 of the 1st Chapter on the Legislative Power.

§ 7.—V. Those which excite directly and intentionally to disobedience to the laws, and to the mandates and orders of the magistrates relative to the execution of the same; every one, however, being at liberty, under the restrictions contained in the present decree, to declare his opinion not only upon the laws but also upon any act of the executive or judicial power;

Placet.

§ 8.—VI. And those which contain defamatory libels, expressions of a calumnious and licentious nature and contrary to public decency, and in which are disclosed the intrigues and the scandalous secrets of families.

Placet.

§ 9. Any one who may be guilty of the first of the above offences, shall be sentenced to be banished for a term of from one to ten years.

Placet.

With the understanding that the punishments proposed by the Parliament shall be valid, until such punishments have been regulated by the new Code; and that they shall apply in like manner to those persons who may introduce, sell, or cause to be circulated, foreign books of the same nature as those above described.

§ 10. Any one who may be guilty of the second of the above offences shall be sentenced to be banished for a term of from one to ten years.

Placet, as above, under No. 9.

§ 11. Any one who may be guilty of the third of the above offences shall be sentenced to be banished for a term of from one to four years.

Placet, as above, under No. 9.

§ 12. Any one who may be guilty of the fourth of the above offences, shall be sentenced to be banished for a term of from one to ten years.

Placet, as above, under No. 9.

§ 13. Any one who may be guilty of the fifth of the above offences, shall be sentenced to be banished for a term of from six months to two years.

Placet, as above, under No. 9.

§ 14. In the case of the sixth of the above offences, the editor shall be compelled to indemnify the offended party for the losses, expenses, and damages incurred.

Placet, as above, under No. 9.

§ 15. If the defamation should be of a calumnious nature, the offender shall be condemned, as a libeller, to banishment for a term of from one to four years; but if it should be founded on actual circumstances, he shall be punished with banishment for a term of from six months to two years, and always in proportion to the gravity of the offence.

Placet, as above, under No. 9.

§ 16.—I. The printer shall be obliged to see that the sheets of the manuscript which he is about to publish are verified by the author before two witnesses, and to have a perfect knowledge of the person from whom he receives the original;

Placet.

§ 17.—II. And to affix his name and place of residence, and the date of the year when the work is printed.

Placet;

With the understanding that in addition to the preceding obligations he shall be compelled to present a copy of every work he may print, at the office of the Minister of the Interior.

§ 18. He shall not be obliged to divulge the name of the author, unless required to divulge it by the ordinary judge, to whom a complaint may have been preferred; and in default of this justification or being silent on the subject, he shall be subject to the same punishments as have been prescribed for the author.

Placet.

§ 19. Any one who may falsify or omit his name and place of abode, and the date of the year when a work is printed, shall be condemned to the payment of 200 ounces, to be applied to some pious purpose in the same commune.

Placet;

Provided there be no complication of any of the other offences, for which the punishments above stated are to be inflicted, and to which punishments he ought to be subjected.

§ 20. Any one who has been aggrieved shall have the right to complain to the ordinary magistrate.

Placet.

§ 21. On the occasion of such trials, the same forms shall be observed as prevail throughout the kingdom on the occasion of criminal trials.

Placet.

§ 22. If the author should be found guilty by the sentence of the court, the punishment stated above shall be inflicted upon him; and the gradation shall be in proportion to the gravity of the offence, upon which the judge shall decide, until the new Criminal Code shall distinctly determine both the form of trial and the different modes and degrees of the above-mentioned offences and punishments, without, however, deviating at all from what is prescribed in the present chapter.

Placet.

§ 23. Under the name of author shall be comprised the editor also, or the person who may have entrusted the original manuscript to the printer, in the absence of the author.

Placet.

§ 24. With reference to the works which treat on matters of religion, although it has been already decided that such works shall not be printed without the previous consent of the ordinary bishop, yet in case of his refusing his permission, the person concerned shall be at liberty to appeal to the metropolitan; and this authority being only an ordinary one, the case, in the second instance, shall be brought before the secular judge;

and in the event of a diversity of opinion it shall be preferred, in the third instance, first before the secular judge, and afterwards before the competent court of appeal.

Placet.

§ 25. With respect to the revision of books on religion to be effected by the bishops, it is not intended that any prejudice should be conveyed to the rights of *regalia*, and to the prerogatives of the monarchy of Sicily.

Placet;

With the understanding that such books shall continue to be presented to that magistrate to whom such revision shall be destined by the Executive power.

ON THE SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE OF THE KINGDOM OF SICILY.

The Parliament, persuaded that the basis of the constitution in a kingdom not elective is secured by establishing, in the first instance, the order of, and the rights to, the succession to the Crown; and animated by the hope of seeing the kingdom happy under the auspices of the descendants of your Majesty; and having regard to the sovereign decrees and institutions of your Majesty's illustrious father, touching the order of the said succession, approaches your Majesty with the most profound respect to submit the following articles, to which it prays and supplicates your Majesty to grant your royal sanction.

§ 1. I. The Monarchy of Sicily shall be for ever hereditary.

Placet.

§ 2. II. The succession to the Throne shall be preserved in the present branch of the Bourbon family now reigning in Sicily, and shall be established by the laws hereafter expressed, which are analogous and conformable to the wise disposition of the august and illustrious father of our Monarch.

Placet.

§ 3. The succession shall be regulated according to primogeniture, with the right of representation in the male line of male from male.

Placet.

§ 4. But of these descendants it is enacted that the male descendants of a male in the male line, and not the female, shall reign.

Placet.

§ 5. The succession among the males shall be by right of primogeniture.

Placet.

§ 6. They shall succeed by right of representation; according to which any first-born, although prematurely deceased, transmits to his competent descendants his own right which he acquired at the moment of his birth; on which account the nephew shall be preferred to the uncle, by virtue of this right of succession.

Placet.

§ 7. If at any time the reigning monarch in the direct line should die without leaving male issue, the succession shall belong to the eldest male born of a male in the nearest line, whether a brother or a paternal uncle, or a more distant relative; provided, however, that he be the first-born in his own line, and belong to that branch which proceeds or has proceeded in the nearest degree from the direct line of primogeniture.

Placet.

§ 8. If all his own direct male descendants and all the direct male descendants of his brothers should be extinct, the nearest female by blood and by relationship on the paternal side, who may be living at the time of the default, shall succeed. And the same order of primogeniture and of representation which has been established in the case of the males, shall always be observed.

Placet.

§ 9. If the last heiress should be married and should die before her husband, without leaving any son or daughter, the right of the husband to reign shall immediately cease, and the Parliament shall be at liberty to elect him King, or to call another Prince to the throne of Sicily.

Placet.

§ 10. In case the husband should die before the wife who is the last heiress, and should leave a successor, and afterwards the said last heiress should enter upon a second marriage, the said successor shall be under the guardianship of the Parliament, or of the persons whom the same may elect as guardians.

Placet.

§ 11. III. All disputes and doubts, of every description whatever, respecting the actual law of succession, shall be decided by the Parliament.

Placet;

But always subject to Royal sanction.

§ 12. IV. With respect to all family connections, the rights to the succession, and the pretensions which may be raised, all marriages contracted by the King or by his sons or daughters and their successors, shall be notified to, and be approved by, the Parliament.

Veto;

But the individual members of the Royal Family shall not contract any marriage without the consent of the King. If, however, they should have attained the age of 25 years, and should not be able to obtain such consent to their marriage within a year after they have demanded it, and the two Chambers of the Parliament should not in the same time have opposed it (which is the only case in which they shall be allowed to oppose it), then they shall be at perfect liberty to marry with whomsoever and in what manner they may please.

§ 13. V. In default of legitimate heirs and successors, the nation shall have the right to choose its King, who shall reign under such conditions as may be prescribed by the same.

Placet.

§ 14. If the nation should be obliged to make choice of its King among foreign Princes, it shall never elect the Sovereign of another nation, but always a Prince of foreign birth who has no sovereignty in any other country, and who from the day of his election shall fix his place of residence in Sicily. He shall, however, be invariably of a royal family.

Placet.

§ 15. VI. The King of Sicily shall not on any account whatever withdraw from the kingdom without the consent of Parliament; and any King who may quit the kingdom without such consent, or prolong his stay from the island beyond the period granted him by Parliament, shall no longer have any right to reign in Sicily, and from that moment either his successor, if there should be one, shall ascend the throne, or the nation shall elect a new King.

Veto;

As regards the power of withdrawal, it being expedient in that case only to determine, with the consent of the Parliament, by whom and under what conditions, during his absence, the powers given him by the Constitution shall be exercised.

§ 16. VII. The King shall never, either by treaty, or by succession to another kingdom, renounce or cede that of Sicily either wholly or in part, by resigning in favor of any other Prince who is not the immediate heir; but in such a case every act done by him shall be void, and the nation shall not be bound to acknowledge the will of the King.

Placet.

§ 17. VIII. If the King of Sicily should regain the Kingdom of Naples, or should acquire any other kingdom, he shall send his eldest son to reign there, or leave his said son in Sicily and cede to him the kingdom; the said Kingdom of Sicily being declared from this day forward to be independent of that of Naples and of any other kingdom or province.

Placet;

As regards the independence, but everything further shall be established by the King and by his eldest son at the general peace, as to which of the family shall reign there.

§ 18. IX. On the death of the King, his immediate successor shall in his own right assume the government of the kingdom.

Placet.

§ 19. He shall, however, in the course of, at the latest, two months, be recognised by Parliament.

Placet.

§ K 2

§ 20. X. Every King or Queen by inheritance shall, as soon as acknowledged, take a solemn oath in the Cathedral of Palermo, and at the hand of the archbishop, in the following form:—

Placet.

§ 21. "We, &c, King or Queen of Sicily, do promise and swear upon the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and upon the four Evangelists, that we will observe, and cause to be observed, the Roman Catholic Apostolic Religion; that we will observe and respect, and cause to be observed and respected, the Constitution of this Kingdom of Sicily, and all those laws which have been, or which may be made, by the Parliament, &c. We do swear and promise upon the same Holy Cross, that we will never attempt anything which may be contrary to the laws established by the Parliament, or to the happiness of our subjects," &c.

Placet;

With the understanding that the laws made, and to be made, by the Parliament, shall be those which have already merited the Royal sanction, or which may merit it in future.

§ 22. The following oath shall also at the same time be taken by the Parliament:—"The nation, represented by us, declares that it acknowledges in the person of, &c, its true and legitimate King or constitutional Queen; and at the same time promises and swears upon the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and upon the four Evangelists, that it will maintain the same in all those rights which the Constitution has granted."

Placet.

§ 23. XI. The majority of the King shall be fixed at the age of 18 years; and during his minority the Parliament shall choose a Regency and settle the restrictions under which the royal authority shall be exercised by the Regency.

Placet;

The King retaining the power of recommending to the Parliament those matters which he may consider to be the most conducive to the good government of the kingdom and to the complete education of his successor.

§ 24. XII. If the King should be incapable of exercising the royal authority by reason of mental infirmity or from any other failing, the Parliament shall elect a Regency, as stated under Article XI, so long as the incapacity alluded to shall last.

Placet;

In the case of insanity only.

§ 25. XIII. On the death of the hereditary King or Queen, the Parliament, if it should be then convoked, shall prolong its sittings for six months; but if it should have been prorogued it shall immediately re-assemble of its own accord. If, however, there should not be a Parliament in existence, from having been dissolved by the late King, the members of the last Parliament shall assemble of themselves and form a new Parliament.

Placet.

§ 26. If the successor should be a minor, the above-mentioned Parliament shall elect a Regency, as stated under Article XI; shall examine into, correct, and reform, more accurately than at any other time, all the abuses which might have been introduced during the preceding reign, with the view of bringing back the Constitution to its true principles; and finally shall provide for every other necessity of the State.

Placet, as under § 23.

§ 27. XIV. If on the death of the King his successor should have attained his majority, he shall be at liberty, after he has been recognized by the Parliament, to dissolve it, but shall convocate it immediately with a new Chamber of Commons.

Placet.

§ 28. In default of heirs or successors, the Parliament—the existence of which may have been prolonged or which may have re-assembled—shall forthwith take into consideration the choice of the new King.

Placet.

ON THE LIBERTY, RIGHTS, AND DUTIES OF THE CITIZEN.

CHAPTER

Every Sicilian citizen shall have the unrestricted power of speaking upon every political subject whatever, and of complaining of injustice committed towards him, without regard being paid by the magistrates to the denunciation of spies; and he shall not be liable to punishment for anything which he may have uttered; but any one who may be convicted of having promoted seditious conspiracies shall be severely punished.

Placet;

With the understanding that all discourses upon the subjects which are prohibited from § 1 to § 6 of the Law on the Liberty of the Press, shall be forbidden, and indeed anything else which may tend to excite conspiracies or popular seditions.

CHAP. II. Every Sicilian citizen shall have the right to resist any one who, without the authority of the law, may attempt to use violence against him, either by force or by threats, or who may attempt to use measures under supposed personal authority, the magistrates having no other acknowledged right than what the law allows them.

Placet;

But in the sense prescribed in the 25th, 26th, and 27th Sections of Chapter I on the Judicial Power.

CHAP. III. A Sicilian citizen of any class whatever shall not be allowed to exercise more than two public offices of profit, it being a duty to prevent a multiplicity of offices in the same individual.

Placet;

With the understanding that it commences from this day forward, and does not apply to those citizens who possess them at the present time.

CHAP. IV. The law having established only such punishments as are absolutely and evidently necessary, no Sicilian citizen shall be punished except by virtue of a law enacted and promulgated previous to his offence, and legally executed.

Placet;

With the understanding that the present laws continue in force until the compilation of the new Code.

CHAP. V. Every proprietor shall be at liberty to keep game on his own estates, provided they are surrounded by fences at least eight *palme* high.

Placet;

The word game being intended to mean wild boars, stags, deer, and goats; to the exclusion, however, of those lands which are held of His Majesty under any title whatever; and further, the chapter of King James, quoted below under Chapter VI, continuing in force; and it being still in the power of any person to protect the small game on his own estates, according to the existing law and those modifications of it which may be introduced in the new Code.

CHAP. VI. From this day forward, reserves or hunts, either royal, or of other princes or lords, shall not be permitted on the estates of individuals, the said reserves or hunts being considered contrary to the sacred right of property. With respect to the said reserves, the 28th Chapter of King James, as expressed in the following terms, shall be revived and observed:—

“We prohibit with the utmost severity our Highness, the magistrates or officers of our *curia*, or any other person whatever, to make forests (or hunting-reserves) on private estates; and no one shall be molested in the cultivation of his lands and in gathering in the fruits of them on account of such forests by our *curia* and by the superintendents and keepers of the said forests, and no detriment or injustice shall be caused him.”

Placet;

To commence after the end of July, in order to allow of the harvest being finished.

CHAP. VII.—§ 1. Neither the treasury, nor churches, nor communities, nor any other corporations or privileged persons, shall be allowed to claim or enjoy any prerogative, privilege, and distinction in their legal proceedings of any description; but such proceedings

shall always be carried on, and treated, and tried, in the same manner as those of all other individuals, without any distinction whatever.

We reserve to ourselves to declare our Royal will upon this and the four following paragraphs of this Chapter, as soon as the articles contained in these paragraphs are fully defined and elucidated in the new Code, which shall in these particulars correspond with the English Constitution, and principally as respects the privileges of the treasury.

§ 2. In like manner the so-called *mano facole* shall be abolished, and any privilege whatever which the fiscal officer of the treasury has hitherto enjoyed shall also be revoked, the Parliament contravening in consequence any law or statute which is opposed to the present abolition; and it particularly repeals whatever has been enacted in this respect in Section 22 of the 10th Pragmatic, title II, *de Officio Magistratorum*; in the 7th Pragmatic, title, III, *de Officio Conservatoris Regii Patrimonii*; and in Section 16 of the single Pragmatic, title X, *de Officio Perceptorum*.

§ 3. The proctors and advocates of the treasury shall never invade the property of any commune or corporation whatever, or of any individual whatever, without the previous judicial decree, or the formal sentence of the judge or magistrate to whom it may appertain, agreeably to the present Constitution; and in like manner they shall not seize the property of others on their own authority, until they have acquired a legitimate title thereto from the sentences of the judges or magistrates aforesaid.

§ 4. Lastly, the fiscal officer shall never enjoy, in the leasing of any property or estates whatever, the so-called *addizione in dero*, nor any restitution, notwithstanding any privilege or custom; for which purpose the Parliament abrogates any law or statute to the contrary.

§ 5. With reference to churches, communities, and any other corporations or persons, hitherto regarded as privileged and exceptional, the new Civil Code shall enact the necessary analogous provisions.

CHAP. VIII. Every Sicilian citizen shall be considered as forming part of the legislative power, directly or indirectly, and as such shall not acknowledge any other authorities than those established by the laws.

Veto.

As regards the former part, but *Placet* as regards his not acknowledging any other authorities than those established by the laws.

CHAP. IX. Every Sicilian citizen shall be bound to acknowledge the Constitution of the kingdom, and all the laws which compose it. It shall therefore be the duty of the parochial and municipal authorities to make all those who belong to their parishes or communes acquainted with the Constitution of 1812, and also of the universities and public and private schools, to cause it to be read twice a year.

Placet.

CHAP. X. Every Sicilian, in order to be able to participate, directly or indirectly, in the formation of the laws, must be able to read and write; and, therefore, in the year 1830, any Sicilian who may be unable to read shall not be allowed the privilege of an elector.

Placet.

CHAP. XI. Every Sicilian citizen who from this day forward neglects to have his children vaccinated, shall not be allowed to participate, directly or indirectly, in framing the laws, or be admitted into the civic councils.

The note which will be presented by the municipal magistrate shall declare this circumstance.

Veto.

CHAP. XII. A Sicilian shall not be allowed to excuse himself from serving as a jurymen, unless prevented on account of his parentage.

Placet.

CHAP. XIII. A Sicilian shall not be allowed to enter the service of another Power, except by permission of the King, having obtained which he shall never take up arms against his country; otherwise he shall be subject to those punishments which the new Code will enact.

Placet.

TITLE II.

ON THE EXECUTIVE POWER.

CHAPTER I.

§ 1. It shall be the prerogative of the King to represent the Sicilian nation near foreign Powers.

Placet.

§ 2. Also to make war and peace when he may think proper, and to propose or conclude treaties of every description whatever with other Powers, upon condition, however, that they be not repugnant directly or indirectly to the Constitution of the kingdom.

Placet.

§ 3. To appoint his own Privy Council, which shall be composed of four Secretaries of State and of two councillors at least, and shall not exceed twelve in number, including the above-mentioned Secretaries, who are to be members of the same during their career of office: and in like manner to appoint all such other Councillors of State as His Majesty may think proper, who are to be Sicilians and persons of the highest confidence and merit.

Placet ;

With the understanding that the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior, or of Grace and Justice, shall be born councillors; and that, as regards all the others, it shall still be in our power to appoint whom we may please and as many of them as we may please; as in like manner it shall depend on our will to summon into Council what councillors we may please, and as many of them as we may please.

§ 4. His Majesty shall be bound to consult his Privy Council on all the most important occasions, and especially on those appertaining to the declaration of war, to the settlement of peace, and to the conclusion of treaties with foreign Powers.

Placet.

§ 5. The Parliament shall always have the right to demand an account of, and a reason for, every act of the Executive power; and to proceed against and punish the Ministers and members of the Council, whenever it may find them opposed to the prerogatives and to the interests of the nation.

Placet.

§ 6. It shall be the prerogative of His Majesty to elect from among Sicilians alone the four Secretaries of State and the respective directors of the royal offices, and to employ them in the different departments at the choice of His Majesty; and also to elect from among Sicilians alone the subordinate officials.

Placet ;

As regards the future, but not with reference to those officials already in actual service.

§ 7. To honour those who may be deserving, by conferring upon them the usual appointments and dignities about the Court, the orders of knight-hood, and the legal and customary distinctions and titles of nobility.

Placet ;

It continuing, however, to be still dependent on our will to create as many other new offices about the Court as we may think proper, and to confer or create all such other distinctions of honour as we may please.

§ 8. To grant, with the consent of the Parliament, rewards or pensions to those who, from having rendered useful services to the State, may have deserved well of their country.

Placet.

§ 9. To coin money, but not, however, to alter its weight and denomination, or its intrinsic value, except by the previous consent of the Parliament.

Placet ;

It continuing still to be in our power to stop the circulation of that money which we may not consider suitable, and to permit the introduction of foreign monies, by fixing the value of them in proportion to the money of the kingdom.

§ 10. To regulate and command all the land and sea forces of Sicily, so that the King shall always be considered as their Commander-in-chief (*Generalissimo*).

Placet.

§ 11. To confer all the ecclesiastical benefices appertaining to the so-called *regio padronato*, all the degrees of military rank, all the civil and criminal magistracies, upon Sicilians alone, and the commissions which it may be necessary to appoint in execution of the acts of the Parliament.

Placet :

But with all the other provisions and ecclesiastical titles which have hitherto been usually granted by His Majesty.

§ 12. To found, with the consent of the Parliament, new corporations, and to authorize by diplomas the establishment and government of them.

Placet.

§ 13. To control the internal and external commerce of the nation and all the public works and institutions, such as roads, posts, bridges, canals, ports, prisons, and colleges, but always in conformity with the resolutions of the Parliament, as sanctioned by His Majesty.

Placet.

§ 14. To remit, or mitigate, or commute the punishment awarded by sentence to the guilty, but in those cases only in which the trial of the accused is of a private nature, and when the party injured is indemnified for the damage or injury, as will be more particularly explained in the new Criminal Code.

Placet :

And further to grant pardon for all those public offences which are not opposed to the Constitution.

§ 15. To take care that the Ministers, and generally all the administrators of the public affairs, perform their duties ; to demand an account of, and receive information respecting, their conduct ; to admonish those who conduct themselves with little credit in their offices ; and to punish such others as may be found guilty, in conformity with the laws, by the competent authorities and magistrates.

Placet.

§ 16. To cause the sentences which may in conformity with the laws be pronounced by the competent authorities and magistrates, to be carried into execution.

Placet.

§ 17. The system of *eccitative*, which is now carried on in the offices of the Secretaries of State, and by means of which, through the interference of the Ministers in the judicial suits of individuals, there is a tendency to attack the independence of the judicial power, already sanctioned by His Majesty, shall be abolished ; it is therefore enacted that by virtue of this Article no Minister is to consider himself authorized to interfere in the judicial suits of individuals pending before different magistrates.

Placet ;

Except for the execution of the stipulations contained in § 15 of the present Chapter.

§ 18. The King shall exercise all these obligations through his Secretaries of State respectively, who shall be always responsible to the Parliament ; and it shall never avail them to allege any order of His Majesty to excuse their own fault.

Placet.

§ 19. The Parliament shall retain the right to present any petitions and remonstrances to His Majesty on account of any act of the Executive power, and His Majesty shall always bestow upon them suitable consideration.

Placet.

CHAPTER II.

§ 1. Notwithstanding the important dignity enjoyed by the King as *Generalissimo*, he shall not have the power to introduce into or to keep in Sicily any other troops and forces whatever, either land or sea, than those for which he has obtained the consent of the Parliament.

Placet ;

Saving the foreign troops which have been stipulated for in treaties.

§ 2. His Majesty shall never compel any Sicilian to serve in the royal forces either by land or by sea.

Placet;

Except in those cases to which Parliament has consented.

CHAPTER III.

§ 1. It shall be the prerogative of His Majesty to administer the national revenue and property of every description, through the Minister and the Council of Finance, under such conditions as shall be directed.

Placet;

Subject to the conditions and modifications affixed to the following paragraphs.

§ 2. From henceforth the deputation of the kingdom (*deputazione del regno*) and the tribunal of the royal patrimony, with all their dependencies, shall be suppressed.

Placet;

But to take effect from 1st September, 1813, with the understanding that the present law-officers, with the present fiscal advocate for the tribunal of the patrimony, shall be retained for the purpose of deciding the suits of the Treasury, until the new plan of the magistrature shall be settled and brought into practice; in which plan the Parliament shall propose the mode of establishing a tribunal for the Treasury, in conformity with the British Constitution, so as to secure the great object of levying the public revenue.

§ 3. The way in which the above-mentioned administration shall be regulated is as follows:—

His Majesty shall appoint four Grand Chamberlains, who shall be subordinate to and under the direction of the Minister of Finance.

Placet.

§ 4. The duration in office of these Grand Chamberlains shall be terminable at the pleasure of His Majesty.

Placet.

§ 5. Four Vice-Chamberlains shall also be appointed by His Majesty.

Placet.

§ 6. And the duration in office of the four Vice-Chamberlains shall also be terminable at the pleasure of His Majesty.

Placet.

§ 7. A Treasurer-General.

Placet.

§ 8. A Conservator-General.

Placet.

§ 9. An Advocate.

Placet.

§ 10. A Procurator-General of the Treasury.

Placet.

§ 11. Twenty-three *segreti*.

Placet.

§ 12. Twenty-three *pro-conservatori*.

Placet.

§ 13. A *pro-segreti* in each of the adjacent islands, and in each population not being the capital town of the district.

Placet.

With the understanding that the Parliament shall, with reference to the above offices arrange the respective prerogatives and also the means for the easy collection of the public revenue.

§ 14. The duration in office of these officials shall be permanent, but terminable in consequence of crime or default, or from any other cause whatever of which the Minister of Finance may approve.

Placet ;

With the understanding that the above-mentioned offices shall be equally at our nomination and terminable at our pleasure, and that all the officials who are described in the different paragraphs of the present Chapter, shall enjoy all the prerogatives and means which the officers of the Treasury enjoy according to the Constitution of England.

§ 15. To each of two of the Grand Chamberlains shall be assigned eight districts, but to the third only six, in addition to the adjacent islands, to manage the public revenue in them respectively.

Placet ;

But with the understanding that they and their subordinate officers are invested with the same powers and means as the fiscal officer has hitherto enjoyed in the administrative department, until such time as their jurisdictions and means are arranged in the new Code, in conformity with the British Constitution.

§ 16. The fourth shall therefore be charged only with the payment of the public creditors, such as the *landisti*, the *assegnatarii*, the creditors of the revenue of the *milioni*, and such like.

Placet.

§ 17. All the other national revenues and property which are not subject to district distribution shall in like manner be divided by the Minister of Finance among the four Grand Chamberlains.

Placet.

§ 18. Each of the Grand Chamberlains shall have a Vice-Chamberlain under him, to assist him in his various duties.

Placet.

§ 19. The Council of Finance shall consist of the four Grand Chamberlains, over whom the Secretary of State for Finance shall preside. One of the Vice-Chamberlains shall in turn officiate as Secretary, and the Council shall regularly meet once a-week.

Placet.

§ 20. For all its decisions and transactions it, as well as the Minister of Finance, shall be responsible to, and may be punished by, the Parliament.

Placet.

§ 21. The Treasurer-General shall be the cashier of the State, and shall, through his officers, keep the accounts of the Treasury.

Placet.

§ 22. All the sums received and paid on account of the State shall be received and paid in his name.

Placet.

§ 23. The Conservator-General and his officers shall keep the accounts of the debits and credits of the Treasury, and shall regularly report the balance every fortnight to the Minister and Council of Finance.

Placet.

§ 24. The Advocate and the Procurator-General of the Treasury shall manage all the legal matters of the Treasury before the ordinary magistrates.

Placet ;

But before that magistrate who may be appointed by the Parliament ; and provided they retain the prerogatives and jurisdictions which they have hitherto enjoyed, until such time as they may be remodelled by the new Code, in conformity with the British Constitution.

§ 25. Similar advocates and procurators shall be appointed in the different districts near the *aggriti*, whenever they may be necessary.

Placet

With the above reserve.

§ 26. The *segreti* of the districts shall administer and collect, under the orders of the Grand Chamberlain, all the dues of the Treasury, in their respective districts, and shall transmit every month, through the *compagnie d'arme*, the amount of their receipts to the Treasurer-General.

Placet;

The Minister of Finance retaining the power of using all the other means which he may consider suitable.

§ 27. The pro-conservators shall perform the same office in the districts as the servator-general in Palermo.

Placet.

§ 28. The *pro-segreti* shall perform the same duties in the adjacent islands as the *segreti* in their districts.

Placet.

§ 29. The *pro-segreti* of the populations of each district shall be immediately subordinate to the *segreti* of the same district, and shall collect and transmit to the respective *segreti* the national revenues accruing in the territories of the same populations.

Placet.

§ 30. Every payment which may be made to the Treasury shall be made through the banks of Palermo and Messina.

Placet.

§ 31. None of the above-mentioned public functionaries shall have fixed salaries, but 5 per centum on all the sums which they may collect and transmit to the Treasury, and the amount of this allowance shall be apportioned according to the rank and duties of each, in such proportion as may be fixed by the Parliament on the proposition of the Minister of Finance.

Placet;

As regards the 5 per centum, but subject to such an apportionment as we may think proper to establish.

§ 32. As divers archives and offices are to be united together, by virtue of the above decrees, and many minute regulations will be required for the convenient organization of all the departments in the new administration of the finances, the Secretary of State for Finance shall prepare a complete plan relative to all the above objects, and shall afterwards submit it to the next succeeding Parliament, either to approve of it or to make those alterations in it which it may deem suitable.

The above appertaining to the Executive power, we shall make such regulations as we may consider to be most conducive to the good administration of the finances.

CHAPTER IV.

I. The books of office of the Royal Conservator shall be public, in the same manner as are those of any notary in the kingdom.

Placet;

Provided the permission of the Grand Chamberlain of the department be first obtained, and that it be accompanied by those rules which are observed by notaries at the present time, and which are not intended to be changed.

§ 2. The Minister of Finance shall present every year to Parliament a detailed statement of all the debits and credits of the Treasury; and the Parliament shall, in cases of neglect, pass a vote of censure upon the aforesaid Minister, and in those of irregularity, misapplication, or peculation, punish him; it being always the duty of the Chamber of Commons to accuse him, and that of the Peers to proceed against him and try him.

Placet.

§ 3. Whatever has been above stated, with reference to the Minister of Finance, shall equally apply to the four grand Chamberlains.

Placet.

§ 4. The above-mentioned accounts of the Secretary of State for Finance shall be printed, for the information and satisfaction of the whole nation, previous to being presented to Parliament.

Placet.

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CHAPTER V.

1. No new office or employment shall be created in this kingdom without the consent of the Parliament, justice, and generally everything affecting the public, being administered and dispensed by the magistrates and ordinary authorities alone; and in like manner, from this day forward, no office or employment shall be alienated or given, as is said, *in feudo*, as the public offices and employments are in all cases to be conferred on those persons who are absolutely suited and able to serve the State well.

Placet;

With the understanding that we retain the power of creating such offices as we may please, provided they be honorary.

§ 2. With respect to those offices and employments which are already alienated, the Parliament shall have the power of redeeming them and indemnifying the holders by an annual payment corresponding with the actual profit, which shall be calculated on the average of ten years, or by the payment of a capital sum corresponding with the result of the above average, calculated at 5 per centum.

Placet;

With the understanding that those who are to be replaced and recompensed in future shall be selected by us.

CHAPTER VI.

§ 1. Ecclesiastical benefices, employments, dignities, offices, and appointments of every description whatever, without any distinction and exception, even the archbishopric of Palermo and the commanderies (*commende*) of the religion of Jerusalem, shall never be conferred on others than Sicilians alone.

Placet;

With reference to those to be conferred from this day forward.

§ 2. By the word Sicilians is meant those persons alone who are born in Sicily and of Sicilian fathers; and, in like manner, those who are not born in Sicily, but are of Sicilian fathers, who have not become the subjects of a foreign Power.

Placet;

With the understanding that sons born in Sicily of foreigners, and not being able to claim any other country, be also considered Sicilians.

§ 3. With reference to the degrees of military rank, no person who is not a Sicilian shall ever be considered in Sicilian regiments.

Placet.

§ 4. Whenever the Parliament may resolve to maintain foreign regiments, foreigners shall then become eligible even to occupy the posts of officers in them; but such officers, whatever may be their rank, are to take a solemn oath to observe the Constitution.

The form of oath shall be proposed hereafter.

Placet;

With the understanding that whatever was stated under Section 1, Chapter 1, of the present title, shall apply to the foreign troops; and that with respect to the oath to be taken to us, as well as to the Constitution, we reserve to ourselves to declare our own royal will, after the form of it has been submitted to us.

§ 5. Foreigners shall not be proposed as members of the *corpi facoltativi* or of the royal navy, but those who at present belong to such bodies shall be allowed to remain in them.

Placet.

§ 6. In the artillery and corps of engineers, the Sicilian and foreign companies shall be divided, until the entire Sicilian army be formed, and the foreign officers shall not be employed in the Sicilian companies.

We will declare our royal will hereafter.

§ 7. No foreigner shall from this day forward be admitted into the *corpi facoltativi*, without the consent of the Parliament.

Placet.

§ 8. The military governments, the command of the ports, the general command of the different troops, the command of places, forts, castles, and islands, of armed bodies, and of Sicilian fleets and flotillas, shall not be conferred on foreign officers, without the consent of the Parliament.

Placet ;

With the understanding that it refer to the appointments which shall be made from this day forward.

§ 9. And the same with reference to military rank, from the moment the present chapter is sanctioned.

Veto.

§ 10. Any foreigner who may obtain the privilege of citizenship in any commune of the kingdom, or who may marry a Sicilian woman, shall not on that account be capable of holding ecclesiastical emoluments and public employments of any sort in Sicily.

Placet.

§ 11. Letters of naturalization, or the right of Sicilian citizenship, shall be granted to foreigners by the Parliament alone ; but those who are to be permitted to hold ecclesiastical emoluments and public employments, like Sicilians by origin, shall be the sons of naturalized Sicilians, and not naturalized Sicilians themselves.

Placet ;

As regards the naturalization ; not as regards the citizenship, it shall be our province to grant it, with the conditions appended to the sanction given to Section 2 of this chapter.

TITLE III.

ON THE JUDICIAL POWER.

CHAPTER I.

It shall be the province of the judge to apply the laws to circumstances and acts, as well civil as criminal.

§ 1. This power of judging shall reside exclusively with those magistrates upon whom it may have been conferred.

Placet.

§ 2. All the private jurisdictions, or, as they are called, *fori*, having been already abolished, the only judicial power shall reside with the ordinary judges and magistrates established by the present Constitution ; but any causes which may be pending shall not therefore be removed from one court to another, even under the plea of a just recourse to the Prince as a remedy, nor be quashed by virtue of any privilege conceded for the future, or in consequence of restitution to be granted. There shall remain only the ordinary remedies which have been established for appealing from one judge or tribunal to another, by whom the power of judging may be fully exercised.

Placet ;

As regards the enactment for the abolition of the *fori* ; but with the understanding that all judicial power shall be exercised by the present ordinary magistrates, until the new magistrates to be appointed shall enter upon the exercise of their functions.

§ 3. No judge, tribunal, or magistrate, shall on any account whatever transfer his own jurisdiction, that is to say, he shall never allow a suit or admit a petition which is within the cognizance of another judge or magistrate.

Placet.

§ 4. Justice shall be administered by the tribunals in the name of the King, as with him resides the executive power ; and all orders, precautions, and writs of execution, emanating from the magistrates, shall be issued under the authority and in the name of the King.

Placet.

§ 5. Sentences, as well in civil as in criminal cases, shall, in order to prevent any caprice on the part of the judges, be based on the law in the new Code; and if the law should be deficient, recourse shall be had to the Legislative power residing in the Parliament.

Placet;

Unless the Parliament should take cognizance of the merits of the causes brought for trial by individuals; saving, however, anything established by § 2 of Chapter XXV. on the Legislative Power.

§ 6. The law, or the argument deduced directly from it, shall be set forth in all sentences; and the ground of the action shall be stated, with the application to it of the law so set forth; and the sentence shall be the result, either absolving or convicting the criminal or defendant, both in civil and in criminal cases.

Placet.

§ 7. The new Code shall be written in the Italian language, and consequently all judicial acts and sentences shall be written in the same language.

Placet.

§ 8. Two corresponding sentences in a civil action shall decide the cause.

Placet.

§ 9. All matters of fact in civil and criminal trials shall be decided by a jury, with the formation and application of which system, according to the laws established in England, the committee appointed to prepare the Civil and Criminal Codes shall be specially charged.

Placet;

Reserving to ourselves to declare our Royal will, after we have examined the stipulations on this subject to be contained in the new Code.

§ 10. No appeal shall lie against a sentence in a criminal case declaring an accused party innocent; but if it convict him, he shall be re-examined in those forms and cases which the Code, founded on the English laws, shall establish.

P cet;

Reserving to ourselves to examine the laws which will be proposed in the new Code.

§ 11. No person whatever in Sicily shall be arrested, imprisoned, transported from Sicily, compelled to change his place of abode, or subjected to a punishment of any description, except under the forms prescribed by the laws, and according to the order and sentence of an ordinary magistrate.

Placet;

With the understanding that Sicilians alone are referred to, and that it shall always be in the power of the Ministers of State to order the arrest of any one, provided the person arrested be handed over to the ordinary magistrates within twenty-four hours.

§ 12. All arrests of every description, by *Alta Economia, de Mandato Principis, &c.*, shall be prohibited, for any cause or person whatever, upon pain, on the part of whoever shall practise or assist in the execution of the above and similar arbitrary proceedings, of the loss of any public employment, of the payment of a fine of 1,000 ounces for the benefit of the public Treasury, and of transportation to an island for a longer or shorter period, according to the gravity of the offence.

Placet.

§ 13. His Majesty shall never pardon such offences as the above.

Placet.

§ 14. The magistrates and the tribunals shall never proceed against any citizen for any offence, except on the accusation of the party offended and interested; they shall therefore be prohibited from proceeding by inquisition, except in the following extraordinary offences, viz.:

Placet.

§ 15. 1. That of high treason against God.

Placet.

16. II. That of high treason against the King, which shall be limited to attempts against the crown of our lord the King and his person, and that of Her Majesty the Queen, or of their successors to the Throne, or of his Vicar-General.

Placet;

With the understanding that it shall also comprehend all those offences against the persons of the King and Royal Family which are to be established by the new Code, in conformity with the English Constitution.

§ 17. III. That of sedition, which shall comprehend actual conspiracies against the Government and the public tranquillity.

Placet.

§ 18. IV. That of homicide.

Placet.

§ 19. V. That of incendiarism.

Placet.

§ 20. VI. That of theft accompanied with violence.

Placet.

§ 21. VII. That of forgery of coins and of writings.

Placet;

Whether of writings or of anything else, and including all those offences which are contrary to tranquillity, morality, and public faith, as will be better detailed in the new Code.

§ 22. In the case of any of the above offences, the magistrates and tribunals shall proceed by way of information and inquiry; they shall not, however, be authorized to arrest any one, except upon legal evidence and well-founded suspicions as to his crime, which shall be fully defined in the new Code.

Placet.

§ 23. The military power shall not be employed to arrest criminals, except on the demand and under the direction of the ordinary magistrates.

Placet.

§ 24. It shall never act against the people, except in the case of sedition alone.

Placet.

§ 25. Every officer of justice shall, previous to proceeding to arrest any person whatever, be authorized by a warrant signed by, and sealed with the seal of, the ordinary judge or magistrate having jurisdiction; in which warrant shall be expressed the name of the person to be apprehended, the crime with which he is charged, the accuser, the evidence and the grounds upon which his arrest has been ordered.

Placet;

With the exception, however, of stating the accusers and the evidence.

§ 26. Any opposition whatever to these warrants, even avoiding them by flight, shall be regarded and punished as a direct resistance to the laws; while, on the contrary, any act of resistance whatever offered by a citizen to the execution of warrants of arrest, which are deficient in the forms already prescribed, shall not be punished by the law.

Placet.

§ 27. In those cases, however, in which a citizen is notoriously guilty of any of the offences of the extraordinary nature above mentioned, or taken in *flagranti*, he shall be arrested without such warrant, not only by the officers of justice, but even by any individual.

Placet.

§ 28. Every person arrested, even on the grounds above expressed, shall be furnished after twenty-four hours with the warrant in the manner and form above established; and the cause of his imprisonment, the name of the prosecutor, and the documents and proofs in support of the accusation, shall be communicated to him.

Placet;

With the understanding that it shall be reserved for the new Code to establish, in conformity with the new custom, the nature of the documents and proofs which are to be communicated to the party arrested.

§ 29. The keepers of the prisons shall not receive any citizen by the verbal order of the judge or magistrate, or without demanding a warrant, of the nature of those above stated, in justification of the cause for which the citizen has been arrested.

Placet.

§ 30. The person arrested shall be reported to and examined by the judge or magistrate within twenty-four hours at the latest, and shall have the right to demand a decision by the competent tribunal as to the legality of his arrest.

Placet.

§ 31. Any one who has been arrested or detained shall, on being taken before the judge, be allowed to offer suitable bail, and be set at liberty until the conclusion of the trial, except in the case of any of the extraordinary offences recited above.

Placet.

§ 32. The new Code of Laws shall fix the manner in which persons and property are to be secured by the means of bail, the utmost favour being shown to the civil liberty of the citizen, and the amounts being classified in proportion to the different conditions of offences.

Placet.

§ 33. The evidence against accused persons or defendants shall be taken upon every circumstance in their presence, and even in that of their attorney, who shall be allowed to put to every witness such questions as he may think proper, and to make notes of the replies and depositions, according as shall be better laid down in the new Criminal Code.

Placet.

§ 34. Every judge or magistrate shall be forbidden to use torture in any criminal trials in this kingdom; all articles appertaining thereto, such as those called *damnauxi*, manacles for the feet and hands, and all other instruments of cruelty, which it might be wished to exercise upon accused persons or those under examination, shall therefore be prohibited, as being instruments which unjustly punish those suspected of crime before the sentence of the judge is passed on them, inspire in the nation sentiments of cruelty, and are often the means of sacrificing the weak who are innocent, and of releasing the strong who are guilty from the public vengeance of the laws.

Placet.

§ 35. The new Code shall contain instructions as to the course of legal proceeding, and the motives for examining, imprisoning, convicting, and punishing the guilty, the law of *habeas corpus* being adopted, and also the provisions of the English Criminal Code, so far as the usages of this kingdom and the temper and habits of the people will permit.

Placet.

§ 36. Any judge or magistrate who may practise cruelty of any description upon a prisoner, shall be condemned, not only to make indemnification for losses, but even to be deprived of his office, and shall be subjected to those pains and penalties which shall be liberally fixed in the new Penal Code.

Placet.

§ 37. The prisons shall be so arranged as to secure the persons of the prisoners in those cases in which bail is not offered or is not admissible, but never to annoy those confined in them.

Placet.

§ 38. They shall therefore be public, authorized by the laws, salubrious, and suitable to the condition of the persons confined, who are not to be subjected to any punishment before they have been declared guilty by the sentence of the judge.

Placet.

§ 39. The new Code shall fix the duration of each cause according to its nature. Both civil and criminal trials shall be conducted with brevity, but at the same time without stultifying the necessary proofs; so that the right of every one to demand justice may be expeditiously entertained, and offences be promptly punished.

Placet.

§ 40. It shall be the province of the judges of the peace to look after and inspect the public prisons, under the immediate supervision of the Supreme Court of Cassation.

Placet.

CHAPTER II.

On the Qualifications of the Judges and Magistrates.

§ 1. No one shall be a judge, or hold the office of a magistrate, except he be a Sicilian born;

Placet.

§ 2. Unless he be thirty years of age;

Placet.

§ 3. Unless he has shown sufficient proofs of probity;

Placet.

§ 4. Unless he has graduated in both the faculties of law at one of the two learned universities of Palermo and Catania;

Placet.

§ 5. And unless he possesses the revenue which the Parliament has fixed to be the qualification required for an elector of the representatives of the Chamber of Commons.

Placet.

§ 6. The judges and magistrates shall not exercise any other functions than those appertaining to their respective offices; they shall therefore be forbidden to undertake any other administration or commission.

Placet;

Except as regards the justices of the peace.

§ 7. They shall be prohibited from exercising any administration of or direction over property and private families, and especially from receiving any emolument for such.

Placet;

Except as regards the justices of the peace.

§ 8. They shall never be allowed to make any representation either to His Majesty's Secretaries of State or to the Parliament, respecting a reform or suspension of the law, unless they are required by the Legislative power.

Placet.

CHAPTER III.

On the Abuse of the Judicial Authority.

§ 1. Every judge and collective tribunal shall be liable to be called upon for an account of their conduct; and all the officers and persons employed in the administration of justice shall also be equally so.

Placet.

§ 2. The abuse of authority shall afford ground for popular complaint; and any individual shall be at liberty to propose to the Parliament an inquiry into the public conduct of the judge and magistrate, in the manner and form to be established in the before-mentioned Code.

Placet.

§ 3. Any person aggrieved or interested shall be at liberty formally to prefer his complaint to the Parliament, of any contravention of the law committed by the judge and court, either during the trial or in the sentence, or of any other fault, in the way and manner to be established in the Code above mentioned.

Placet;

With the understanding that it be preferred through one of the members of the Parliament.

§ 4. The Parliament shall be at liberty, if it should think proper, to suspend them from their office, in the course of the process, until the definitive sentence.

Placet.

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§ 5. After the sentence, they shall be absolutely removed from their office for any offence legally proved; and subjected, moreover, to all those other penalties which shall be awarded in the new Code.

Placet.

§ 6. The tribunals shall not take cognizance of or decide upon the active causes (*cause active*) of the Secretaries of State, for whose department they are nominated.

Veto:

The responsibility resting with the judges.

ON THE ABOLITION OF THE FORI (*Private Courts of Justice*).

§ 1. The feuds and all the feudal prerogatives and jurisdictions having been abolished (as was stated at Article XII, which has already been sanctioned by His Majesty), justice shall be administered uniformly in all the places of Sicily, by the same judicial power, elected and authorized by His Majesty, according to the new plan to be established by the Parliament.

Placet;

But in conformity with the plan of magistracies to be established, and with the prerogatives to be fixed for the Treasury.

§ 2. Delegations and commissions, and the private judicial courts, or as they are commonly called, *Fori*, shall be abolished in this kingdom, with the exception of the Ecclesiastical court for spiritual causes and for causes which belong to the Royal Monarchy and Apostolical Legation; the personal court of all the laity, commissioners, principal officers, and subalterns of the same being abolished, as will be explained in the new Code; so that the causes, as well active as passive, as well civil as criminal, of every description, of every class of citizens, of the Treasury, of the Exchequer, of all the communes and corporations, shall, without any exception, be brought before and decided by the ordinary magistrates and tribunals established by the Constitution.

Placet;

Saving the Court of the *Crociata*, erected according to the Bull of Gregory XIII for matters of an ecclesiastical nature appertaining to the *Crociata* itself, which is to remain; and upon condition that the compilers of the new Code do refer to and have regard for those dispositions relative to the said court which may have been made by subsequent Roman Pontiffs, in order that they may be able therefrom to make suitable provisions; and saving also any proposals to be made by the Parliament with respect to the privileges of the Treasury; and further with the understanding that what is stated in Section 2 of Chapter I, on the Judicial Power, be carried out until the new magistracies be systematised and brought into operation.

§ 3. Only those offences which are purely of a military nature, and those which are committed by soldiers in their quarters, in fortresses, in camps, or on board vessels of war, shall be brought under the cognizance of and be heard by the councils of war, and by that magistrate who shall be prescribed by the ordinances of the army, which are to be prepared by the Minister of War and approved by the Parliament.

Placet;

Reserving to ourselves to issue our resolutions respecting the new Military Code, which is to be proposed, subject to our sanction, as is stated in Section 2 of Chapter I on the Legislative Power.

§ 4. With reference to criminal causes, the Parliament shall specify in what manner and by whom the Members of the Parliament itself shall be tried, and especially the Peers (according to the Article which has been approved), and the other persons of a public and privileged character, in conformity with the tenets of the Constitution of England.

Placet;

Reserving to ourselves to declare our royal determination as soon as the Parliament shall present us the specifications indicated.

§ 5. The personal immunity of the ecclesiastics shall, however, be respected, as will be established in its place in the new Code.

Placet;

The concordats and bulls applicable to this kingdom being taken into consideration in framing the new Code.

ON TRIAL BY JURIES, OR EQUALS.

§ 1. The trial by juries, or judges absolutely equal, shall be introduced into and established within this kingdom, for criminal causes and for all classes of citizens alike.

Placet;

As regards the principle set forth in the six paragraphs of this Title; but reserving to ourselves to declare our royal will as regards all the rest, after the new Code has been presented to us.

§ 2. The temporal Peers of the kingdom shall, however, be tried by the Chamber of Peers, in those cases and in the same manner and with the same forms which are observed in England.

§ 3. The spiritual Peers shall be tried by the Chamber of Peers in those cases which are allowed by the laws of the church.

§ 4. The committee which is to be charged with the preparation of the Civil and Criminal Code, shall adapt to the local and moral circumstances of this kingdom the system of juries which is adopted.

§ 5. The same system shall in like manner be adopted for civil trials, in those cases and forms which may be deemed suitable.

§ 6. The same committee shall prepare, according to the Constitution of England, the forms and modes of proceeding to be observed at the trials of the Peers or Lords.

PLAN OF FINANCE.

§ 1. The Parliament having applied itself to provide for the exigencies of the State, and considering on the one hand the actual unfavourable condition of the finances, and on the other hand the necessity of providing with promptitude for the defence of the State, the splendour of the throne, and the suitable maintenance of the Royal Court, and not having been able, in consequence of the limited time, to certify in detail the active patrimony, or settle with suitable exactitude the passive state of the kingdom, has been content with forming for the present a provisional plan, in order that the exigencies of the State for the current year being thus provided against, the next Parliament might be able to establish a new and general plan of finance; and having, therefore, confirmed all that was established in Chapter II on the Legislative Power, to wit, that from this day forward all the property and revenues of the State, of every description whatever, including that hitherto regarded as the property of the Crown, shall belong to the nation, it has determined to establish as follows:

Placet.

§ 2. That all the duties, taxes, and imposts which were abolished by virtue of the decisions of the Parliament in 1810, including those of the *decime*, the *taxi feudale*, the *taxi di possessione*, the internal duties of the kingdom, and the others abolished by the present Parliament, shall continue so abolished; and therefore it is to be understood that every contract whatever made for farming such duties, shall be void, and that no claim for compensation shall be preferred by the contractors.

That on this account the active and provisional state of the patrimony of the kingdom, cleared of the charges attached to it, shall be considered as settled in the following manner:

799,000 ounces from the imposta fixed by the Parliament in 1810, including the 156,382 ounces which result, at the least as is asserted, from the proceeds of the 5 per centum duty.

Placet:

According to the tenor of Chapter III., § 3 on the Civic Councils.

§ 3. The Parliament has, however, decreed that the proprietors of those houses which were returned as yielding a revenue of 24 ounces per annum or less, and who on that account have the power of disposal and of leasing the said houses within the mean-

ing of the before-mentioned Parliament of 1810, shall not be exempt from the said tax of 5 per centum; it being understood at the same time that every privilege whatever hitherto granted by the laws and usages of the kingdom, to persons of military or forensic occupations, or the leaders of any class or privileged order, shall be abolished, but that every quota of the contributions established by the said Parliament, which form a part of the 799,000 ounces alluded to, shall remain, as was then stated, in order to pay the preceding grants, although all the local taxes of the kingdom are abolished, as is also abolished the supplemental tax of 3 tari and 15 grani per cask, on the consumption of wine.

45,500 ounces from the bulls (*balle*) of the *crociata*, according to the plan presented by the Secretary of Finance.

17,750 ounces from the royal lottery, according to the plan presented as above.

1398 ounces from the *polizze d'arme*, according to the plan presented by the Secretary of Finance.

1672 ounces from the *mezz' annata*, according to the plan presented by the Secretary of Finance.

4,521 ounces from the posts of Palermo and Messina, as above.

35,284 ounces from the *segrecie*.

96,250 ounces from the custom-houses, maritime collections, including the free port of Messina, the tax of 1 per centum upon goods introduced into that city for consumption in the kingdom, the duty of customs upon goods proceeding from Calahria, and the silk trade of Palermo and Messina, as above.

Placet;

It being understood that with reference to the houses below 24 ounces, the stipulation shall take effect for the future from the next indiction for 1813 and 1814.

§ 4. With respect to the above-mentioned Article on the customs, the Minister of Finance shall take into consideration the following reforms proposed by the Parliament, and shall present to the new Parliament a plan by which the said reforms may be brought to maturity.

Placet;

As regards the forming of the plan, but keeping in view the following modifications marked by the numbers which follow:—

I. That the new tariff already undertaken be completed.

We reserve to ourselves to declare our Royal will after the new system of customs has been established.

II. That the regulations touching the establishment of warehousing ports, proposed in the Supreme Junta of the Customs under date of April 18, 1805, and afterwards authorized by successive Royal rescripts, be carried into operation; and this as well in the case of the custom-house of Palermo as in the case of that of Syracuse, to which the said privilege of being a warehousing port has been granted.

We shall declare our Royal will after the new plan to be prepared for the system of custom-houses has been presented to us.

III. That a suitable and proportionate salary be assigned to the officers of the customs.

Placet.

IV. That officers be appointed near the Minister of His Britannic Majesty, in order that they may be able to visit, in company with the officers employed by the said Minister, all the little barks, and chiefly those of Malta, and thereby prevent the continual trade of smuggling.

Placet.

V. That every sort of exemption be abolished whether military, or for privileged bodies of the Royal House or otherwise.

Placet;

With the understanding that the Parliament have regard to the poor aged fathers and take into consideration the consequences which may happen from the Treaty with Great Britain of September 12, 1812.

VI. That all the duties of customs be consolidated into one, the multiplicity of them being abolished, as this, being injurious to commerce, renders also at the same time the system of administration more complicated.

We reserve to ourselves to take the above into consideration on the establishment of the new system of custom-houses, according as has been specified under No. 1 of this paragraph.

VII. That the internal duties of the kingdom be abolished, as has been concluded at Chapter III, § 3, on the Civic Councils and Municipal Magistracies, which, joined to the bad state of the roads, most completely paralyse domestic commerce and intercourse.

11,355 ounces from the Royal *caricatori*, according to the plan presented by the Secretary of Finance.

6,669 ounces from the county of Mascali, according to the plan presented by the Secretary of Finance.

10,300 from various revenues and eventual duties as above.

5,000 ounces from the Archbishopric of Morreale, according to the last explanation of the Secretary of Finance.

3,088 ounces from the tithe on pensions, according to the plan as above.

30,919 ounces, 24 tari, from the annual balances on the exchequered county of Modica, according to the plan as above.

79,363 ounces, 19 tari, from the annual balances on sequestered effects.

8,021 ounces, increase upon such property for the current year, as explained by the Secretary of Finance.

Placet.

With reference to the above portions of the effects sequestered, the Parliament shall take into consideration the rights of the Spaniards, so as not to reckon upon their property like funds belonging to the Treasury, as was declared by His Majesty in the rescript of October 30, 1812, and is in like manner declared by us this day in the rescript of the 23rd of the present month of May.

§ 5. In the understanding that the two portions stated last but one have been cleared by the Parliament of all the pensions and gratuitous assignments which are suspended in virtue of the following order; as also of the 1005 ounces, 1 tari, 10 grani, which are paid annually to the Society of Jesus as a substitute for the revenue from the salt mines of Otranto and Basilicata.

1414 ounces, 26 tari, on account of the substitute for the tobacco in the adjacent islands.

560,000 ounces for the English subsidy, at 42 tari exchange.

21,938 ounces, 11 tari, from the following sources, administered until now by the Minister of War.

7,926 ounces, 24 tari, for *terza pensionabile*, hitherto assigned for the expenses of the war.

4,665 ounces, 1 tari, for *fondi di lucri*.

3,755 ounces, 4 tari, on account of the military asylum.

628 ounces, 2 tari, from the widows' fund.

4,953 ounces, 10 tari, from the *decima sulle prede*.

Placet;

But with the understanding that the new Parliament shall investigate all those pensions which have originated in causes involving payment and remuneration, and which, therefore, justice requires to be continued.

§ 6. 3,511 ounces more derived hitherto from the *fondo di lucri* by the keepers of castles, the governors of places, and others, and which ought now to be given up for the benefit of the State.

Placet.

§ 7. 4,632 ounces more on account of another additional tax of 15 per centum imposed by the Parliament beyond the tithe upon all pensions, gratuitous assignments, or subsidies, which are exempted from the regulation to be spoken of in its place.

Total, 1,847,687 ounces, 20 tari.

Placet.

§ 8. The Parliament has, moreover, decided that the *terza pensionabile* shall from this day forward be deducted generally on all property subjected to such a deduction, without however it being intended to include those small abbeys, the revenue of which does not amount to 150 ounces per annum, and those hitherto untaxed; the same being regulated according to the latest assessments, and given up entirely for the benefit of the State, according to the amount less the assignments made of it.

Placet;

As regards the extraordinary exigencies of the State; but reserving to ourselves to declare our royal mind to the new Parliament respecting the system.

The active patrimony of the State having been thus settled, the Parliament, in fixing the passive patrimony, has decided before everything else—

§ 9. That the sum of 241,000 ounces shall be assigned for the Civil List, including whatever has been hitherto paid to the Royal Court on account of the Royal House, Court Extraordinaries, Purses, exemptions on goods, or in money, and otherwise; which sum being divided into monthly payments of 20,083 ounces, 10 tari, is to be distributed in the following manner,—to wit:

6000 ounces to His Majesty the King and his royal consort, during His Majesty's life, everything being included as above.

4000 ounces to his said Majesty as subsidy, and for a year, to commence on the 1st September next, and to end on 31st August, 1813.

500 ounces for the maintenance of his royal court, and for a year, as above.

5000 ounces to their Royal Highnesses the Hereditary Prince and Princess, and for their Royal Family during the life, as above, of His Majesty the King, or till the accession of his said Royal Highness to the Throne.

1000 ounces to his said Highness on account of his office as Vicar-General of the kingdom, and during the same period, as above.

1583 ounces, 10 tari, to his said Highness as subsidy, and for a year from 1st September, 1812, to 31st August, 1813.

2000 ounces to the Princess Amelia, Duchess of Orleans, for a year, as above.

Placet.

§ 10. There shall be reckoned in the above assignments whatever would have been paid, from the 1st September last, to the said royal persons, on this account of the royal house and the above headings.

Placet.

§ 11. The Parliament consents, moreover, that His Royal Highness Prince Leopold, in addition to the ecclesiastical benefices which he enjoys, shall enjoy also, until it shall be otherwise determined at a future time by the Parliament, all those revenues and properties which are national, and which are annexed to the administration of the Abbey of the Magione. The Parliament, moreover, declares that whenever His Royal Highness is willing to give up to the nation, during his lifetime, the revenues and the administration of the Abbey and Commandery of the Magione, of the Abbey of Santa Maria di Altoponte, of the procuration of Bisacquino in the estates and appurtenances of Prizzi and of Palazzo Adriano, and of others; the Parliament will in such case assign him thenceforth and during his life, 24,000 ounces annually, to be paid him at the rate of 2,000 ounces per mensem, with the understanding that it is not intended, by virtue of the preceding assignments, to cause any prejudice to the rights and pretensions which may be set up by any one with respect to such property.

Placet;

Provided the actual rights and prerogatives of the Treasury, with respect to the said property, remain equally valid and intact.

§ 12. His Royal Majesty shall further be allowed during his life, the use of the estates of Lupo, Ficuzza, and Capelliere, a dependence of the Archbishopric of Murrenle; and of the three estates of Santa Maria del Bosco, Giacomazzo, Carrubbelli, a dependence of the abolished monastery of Santa Maria del Bosco.

Placet.

§ 13. The Parliament has in like manner determined that 30,000 ounces shall be assigned for the salaries and expenses of the foreign Ministers, Consuls, couriers, and others belonging to the Diplomatic Body, with the understanding that the persons so employed are Sicilian natives, according as has been established by the present Parliament in another place.

Placet;

As regards the reform of the above-mentioned assignments, but to take effect from the day when the above-mentioned Ministers and officers of every description employed in the foreign relations shall be named; as regards the conditions of the persons employed also *Placet*, but to take effect in the case of those who from this day forward shall be promoted, unless the Parliament should make a suitable assignment in consideration of services rendered for more than ten years by the actual Ministers.

§ 14. The Parliament has however thought proper to make an exception in favour of the Duke of Serra-Capriola, Minister at St. Petersburg, although not a Sicilian by birth, on account of his long and distinguished services, so long as His Majesty may think it proper not to make any change respecting him.

Placet.

§ 15. And it has also thought proper to leave the Minister for Foreign Relations at liberty to choose the Consuls and couriers from among either Sicilians or foreigners.

Placet.

§ 16. It has further determined that there shall be assigned for the expenses of the war the under-mentioned sums, viz. :—

979,696 ounces for the land forces.
 225,106 ounces for the royal navy.
 In addition to the sum of 236,062 ounces assigned as follows :
 101,168 ounces for the land forces, and
 134,894 ounces for the royal navy.

Placet.

§ 17. For the formation of the new plan of war and of the other exigencies in the same branch; with the understanding, however, that such a portion of the principal sums shall be paid to the Minister of War, as shall be derived from the collection of the credits of the State, and under the following conditions :

We shall declare our royal will after the new plan has been presented to us by the next Parliament.

§ 18. That the supplement to the new army to be formed shall be composed entirely of Sicilian natives, both as privates and as officers;

Placet ;

It being intended that § 11 of Chapter VI on the Executive Power, be complied with.

§ 19. That in order to accomplish such an object in the absence of any other general plan to be adopted, the proposed force be provisionally completed, by selecting a proportionate number of officers and privates from the army of volunteers, who may be willing to be enrolled, but who are to be again discharged as soon as the above-mentioned force shall be otherwise filled up.

We reserve to ourselves to declare our royal mind after the plan has been presented to us by the next Parliament.

§ 20. That in the absence of Sicilians to fill the posts of officers in the *corpi facoltativi*, foreigners actually employed in the same may be employed for the purpose.

Placet.

As at § 6 of Chapter VI. on the Executive Power.

§ 21. The Parliament authorizes the Minister of War to apply those sums which he may not be able to devote to the purposes mentioned relative to the land forces, to that which may be necessary in the same branch, giving an account thereof to the next Parliament.

Placet.

§ 22. The Parliament has finally assigned to the Minister of War, 2000 ounces per mensem, in order to pay the supernumerary officers and privates of the land and sea forces, beyond the credits, in augmentation of those assigned, and in the same form and manner; with the understanding that the said Minister shall occupy himself with the removal of such burden, by discharging (as he best can) all those officers and privates who may have served less than ten years in the line; which sum calculated for a year will amount to 24,000 ounces.

The Minister of War shall present to the new Parliament the true state of the supernumerary officers and of other supernumerary individuals belonging to his branch.

§ 23. The Parliament has in like manner determined that in consideration of the actual urgencies of the State, all the pensions, subsidies, or gratuitous assignments, which have been granted up to the present time to persons not of Sicilian birth, and to civil and military officers being Sicilians, even if they have been given in *feudum*, shall be suspended; with the single exception of those assigned to foreigners living in convents or places of education, and to persons occupying chairs of literature, amounting to the sum of about 1168 ounces.

In immediate reference to the above-mentioned suspension, the Parliament has decided that 10,000 ounces shall be given to His Majesty, and by him to His Royal Highness the Vicar-General, in order that the latter may be enabled to assist all those persons who are in the condition of *quarimestranti*, and whom he may think proper to oblige, up to the time of the new Parliament, through the Minister of Finance.

Placet ;

What has been said at § 5 of the present plan being held good as regards the pensions.

§ 24. The Parliament has further cleared the portion of 111,895 ounces, expended on the Treasury General of Palermo, from the pensions, subsidies, assignments, &c., suspended as above, as also from the 1300 ounces marked in the assignments in favour of the monastery of the benedictines of Morreale, on account of the revenue due to them on the fief of

Renda and *Misero Canonico*, not belonging to the State, and which shall from this day forward be paid by the actual possessor, leaving such portion to amount to 103,727 ounces.

Placet.

§ 25. Also 8,292 ounces for the portion of 11,000 expended for the Treasury-General of Messina, considering that it has been cleared of 2,216 ounces contributed for particular purposes connected with the streets of that city; as further of 492 ounces resulting from two portions of 100 ounces each; another of 180 ounces, and another of 112 ounces, for assignments and subsidies suspended, as above.

Placet.

§ 26. Also 8,500 for the four Secretaries of State, viz., for Foreign Relations, Finance, War and Marine, and Interior, being 2000 ounces for each, and 500 ounces as a gratuity to the Secretary of State for Foreign Relations for defraying extraordinary charges; with the understanding that the salaries granted to the ex-Secretaries of State are suspended at the same time.

Placet.

§ 27. 15,000 ounces for the prisoners, persons confined in garrisons, and those subjected to punishment of every description, considering the escape which has already been effected by several foreigners who made the expenditure amount to 20,000 ounces.

The Parliament however desires that the Minister of War will present a plan of economy, in order to relieve the nation from such a charge.

Placet.

§ 28. 900 ounces for alms and rewards to the *Pantellaria*.

Placet.

§ 29. 57,420 ounces for persons holding assignments on the 300,000 *scudi*.

Placet.

§ 30. 16,512 ounces for ditto, on the *lande*.

Placet.

§ 31. 29,640 ounces for ditto, on the two millions.

Placet.

§ 32. Also 10,000 ounces for the assignments to be made to the communes of the kingdom, to the commanderies of the Order of Jerusalem and Royal Abbeyes, in compensation for property and revenues sold to them.

Placet.

§ 33. The Parliament, however, in assigning the above sum of 10,000 ounces, declares that it reserves its judgment respecting the restitution of the funds alienated to the future Parliament, and entreats His Majesty to suspend the completion of the said sales or alienations, although they may have been initiated.

Placet;

Provided they be examined with that view to justice which is proper.

§ 34. 3,200 ounces to the house of *Airoldi*, on the abolition of *decima* and *tari*.

Placet.

§ 35. 33,600 ounces for the roads of the kingdom.

Placet.

§ 36. 3,200 ounces for the bridges.

Placet.

§ 37. 4,000 ounces for the watch-towers.

Placet.

§ 38. Also 17,848 ounces assigned for 23 *compagnie d'arme*, composed of a captain and 12 men, with the pay of 400 ounces per annum for the first and of 96 ounces each for the second, for the purposes indicated by the Parliament of 1810 not less than by the present, for six months, with the understanding, however, that they shall commence from the day when His Majesty shall call them out.

Placet.

§ 39. Also 20,000 ounces granted to the Minister of Finance for the discharge of unforeseen expenses, for the remission of fines to those who rent the property of the State, and for the diminution which may be experienced in the produce of the eventual estates and of those depending upon commerce, for one year to 31st August, 1813.

Placet.

§ 40. Also 600 ounces to Signor Vincenzio li Pomi in order to perform his engagement for types for printing, according to the offer accepted and approved by the Parliament.

Placet.

As an encouragement; what has been stated under § 11 of Chapter XVII on the Legislative power being established with reference to printing.

§ 41. Also 13,396 ounces assigned discretionally to the Minister of Finance for the payment of the pensions, subsidies, and gratuitous assignments suspended for a third period from 1st September to 31st December, 1812.

Placet.

§ 42. Also 2,902 ounces 19 tari and 6 grains for the expenses of the present Parliament, to be distributed as per note.

Also 156,382 ounces for those deficient from the proceeds of the tax of 5 per centum.

Including the 236,072 ounces assigned to the Minister of War, from the principal sums which may arise from the collection of the credits of the State, as it has been stated that they will be deducted from the above sum.

	ounces.	tari.	grs.
Amount of the passive patrimony . . .	2,016,089	19	6

BALANCE OF THE ACTIVE AND PASSIVE PATRIMONY OF THE STATE.

	ounces.	tari.	grs.
Passive patrimony . . .	2,016,089	19	6
Active patrimony . . .	1,847,687	20	0
Balance deficient . . .	168,401	29	6

Placet.

§ 43. With reference to the 156,382 ounces above mentioned, which are deficient on the proceeds of the returns, the Parliament considers that the deficiency arises from the want of exactness in the returns made; and, therefore, being desirous of having a perfect and undoubted knowledge of the mass of the taxable revenues declared by the thirteenth indiction, it has decreed that in order to make an exact rectification of these assessments, the Minister of Finance shall enjoin by proclamation those who make the returns, and generally the possessors of all the property, to correct the errors which may from inadvertence have crept into the returns presented, and to exhibit such corrections within the period of two months from the day of the publication of the proclamation, and also to produce the documents connected with the land tax and the leasing of the houses made by the said thirteenth indiction; and if these should be wanting, to produce, in conformity with what was established by the Parliament in 1810, a declaration of the net proceeds, certified by the oath of the proprietors or their attorneys, and valued on the testimony of an upright and honest surveyor as regards the property in the country, or architect as regards the property in the towns; after the expiration of which time all the returns made shall be printed and published, including both names and quantities, under the responsibility of the said Minister of Finance, and be affixed in the public places of the capital and of the respective communes, with a promise to those informers, who may prove concealment as to the real quantity and value of the property assessed, or the existence of any contract not declared, of three times the sum which ought to have been levied in addition upon such property, and which is still to be paid at the charge of the concealor, in addition to the appropriation of the capital of such a revenue, one half for the informer and the other half for the benefit of the State. The same laws and penalties shall be in force against those persons who may fail to make their returns within the period above described.

Placet.

As regards the correction of the returns; not as to the form and manner, we shall cause to be presented to the Parliament by the Minister of Finance a plan for its consideration.

§ 44. The Parliament, moreover, desires that the agreements ordered by the Parliament in 1810 be completed immutably within the period of four months.

Placet.

§ 45. Although the Parliament has proposed means for supplying the above vote of the proceeds and of all the other contributions necessary for the State, and reformed some portions of the expenditure, deferring them till more prosperous circumstances, still, in

order to secure as much as possible the revenue of the State, and to prove to the whole nation and to His Majesty the King, not only its disinterestedness, but its gratitude for what His Majesty has granted in this extraordinary Parliament, has determined to tax every property comprehended by the Parliament of 1810 at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per centum beyond the tax of 5 per centum, augmenting the receipt to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per centum, as was established by the said Parliament of 1810, and under the same conditions.

Placet.

§ 46. But the Parliament finding on reflection that the revenue which will be received from the addition of the tax already mentioned of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per centum on property, will leave a vote in the patrimony of the State of more than 60,000 ounces, has determined, in order to fulfil the same, that a tax of two tari per legal barrel be laid upon the export of wine out of the kingdom.

The settlement of this article shall be left to the next Parliament.

§ 47. The Parliament has further determined that the said Minister of Finance shall, in the interval of time between the present and next Parliament, cause to be examined with the utmost possible exactness all the branches of public administration, and present detailed and individual accounts of each of them, with the inherent charges and the costs of administration, in conjunction with the accounts of disbursement, which are generally done with reference to the expenses and exigencies of the State, the same proceeding being practised with reference to the rest of the credits of the State itself.

Placet.

§ 48. That the said Minister shall in like manner suggest all the ameliorations and reforms of which each branch is susceptible, and leave, at the same time, whatever of the public property may be suitable; and that he shall also liquidate and classify the debts of the State, as well annual as in the gross, and present a plan of the same in his justification.

Placet.

With the view, however, to make known to the Parliament the difficulties which we consider may be encountered in exactly fulfilling what the Parliament has decided relative to the present plan of finance, we have ordered the Minister of that department itself to present herewith or separately a prospectus, with the necessary explanations.

AGREEMENT

Made by the three Branches, the Ecclesiastical, the Military, and the Domanial.

No. 1. Whoever shall present to the new Parliament a plan of public education and instruction which shall be acknowledged by the same to be the most useful and the most easy of execution, shall receive a reward of 400 ounces.

The plan shall contain:

1. A regulation for all the public schools in the kingdom.
2. A mode of inculcating and keeping constantly alive in the minds of the population, the recollection of the new Constitution.
3. A plan of reform for all the colleges, ecclesiastical and secular seminaries, and establishments for the education of both sexes, actually existing in the kingdom.
4. A plan for the proper government and regulation of the civil and military academies.

Placet.

PETITION OF THE ENTIRE PARLIAMENT TO HIS MAJESTY.

No. 2. The Parliament entreats His Majesty to be pleased to take into consideration the case of all those Sicilians of the secondary and subaltern class, who have until now served His Majesty and the State well, and who are deprived, by the new laws established by the same Parliament, of those functions and offices which they have up to the present day exercised under the old system.

Placet;

As regards all those who have served the State well and shall be acknowledged to be fit and deserving objects.

PROPOSITION IN THE FORM OF A GRACE,

Made by the Domanial Branch, and acceded to by the Ecclesiastical Branch.

No. 3. The Domanial Branch, aware of what importance it is to facilitate the commerce of this kingdom, and considering the advantageous position of the well-known port of Syracuse, as well in reference to the Levant as from its proximity to the Island of Malta, has resolved to grant to the said port and custom-house of Syracuse the privilege of being a dépôt for goods; with the understanding, however, that the expenses of the warehouses and guards, and all others which may be necessary, shall be paid by the commune itself of Syracuse, and not by the whole nation.

The said two branches further pray His Majesty to be pleased to grant the same favour of being dépôts for goods to those harbours and ports of the kingdom which he may think proper for the benefit of the general commerce of Sicily, and upon the same conditions as those above indicated.

Placet;

To the same tenor as that of the sanction given to No. 2 of § 4 of the Plan of Finance.

ANOTHER PROPOSITION OF THE DOMANIAL BRANCH,

Acceded to by the Ecclesiastical Branch.

No. 4. The Domanial Branch, convinced of the extreme necessity of completing the roads in Sicily, has decreed, as much with reference to the choice of the best plan for completing them as soon as possible, and in the most economical manner, as with reference to the regulation according to which the means for the maintenance of the same are to be employed, that the Minister of Finance shall be charged with the same on his own responsibility, but shall be subject to give an account to the Parliament, it being understood that the said Minister shall complete, before any other, the Consular road already commenced from Palermo to Messina, through the mountains. It has further decreed that from this day forward barriers or chains, &c., shall be employed for the preservation of the roads already formed.

Placet;

With the understanding, however, that no restriction is intended to be placed on what has been established under No. 13 of Chapter I, and under § 1 of Chapter III, on the Legislative Power, with reference to the prerogatives of the Crown.

SEPARATE CHAPTER

Concluded by the Parliament as Supplementary to the 6th Chapter on the Executive Power.

No. 5. Although the Parliament has established, in Chapter VI on the Executive Power, the exclusion of foreigners from military commands; yet considering the existence at the present day in this kingdom of the troops of His Britannic Majesty, our ally, it has thought fit to make an exception to the actual rules adopted, with reference to the English army and officers.

Sanctioned in § 1 of Chapter II, on the Executive Power.

LIST OF THE SPIRITUAL PEERS.

1. The Archbishop of Palermo
2. The Archbishop of Messina
3. The Archbishop of Morreale
4. The Bishop of Catania
5. The Bishop of Syracuse
6. The Bishop of Girgenti
7. The Bishop of Patti
8. The Bishop of Cefalù
9. The Bishop of Mazzaara
10. The Bishop of Lipari
11. The Archimandrite of Messina
12. The Grand Prior of St. John of Messina
13. The Abbot of St. Lucy
14. The Commander of the Magione of Palermo
15. The Abbot of St. Mary of Altosfonte called del Parco
16. The Abbot of St. Spirito
17. The Abbot of St. Mary of Maniace
18. The Abbot of St. Angelo di Brolo
19. The Abbot of St. Peter and St. Paul of Italy
20. The Abbot of St. John the Hermit
21. The Abbot of St. Mary la Novara
22. The Abbot of St. Mary la Grotta
23. The Abbot of St. Mary di Roccamadore
24. The Abbot of St. Peter and Paul della forza di agrò
25. The Abbot of St. Mary di Gala
26. The Abbot of St. Mary di Mandanici
27. The Abbot of St. Pantaleone
28. The Abbot of St. Mary de Millis
29. The Abbot of St. Michael di Troina
30. The Abbot of St. Gregory lo Gibiao
31. The Abbot of St. Mary di Roccadia
32. The Abbot of St. Philip de Grandis
33. The Abbot of St. Philip di Frangula
34. The Abbot of St. Mary di Bordonaro
35. The Abbot of St. Nicholas la Ficò
36. The Prior of St. Andrew di Piazza
37. The Prior of the Holy Cross of Messina
38. The Abbot of St. Spirito of Caltanissetta
39. The Abbot of St. Nicander
40. The Abbot of St. Catharine of Linguaglossa
41. The Abbot of St. Lucy of Noto
42. The Abbot of St. Mary of Terrana
43. The Prior of the benefices of St. Matthew the Glory of Messina
44. The Abbot of St. Mary of the Giunbarre
45. The Abbot of St. M. la Novaluce
46. The Abbot of St. Mary del Piano di Capizzi
47. The Abbot of St. James of Altopasso di Naro
48. The Abbot of St. Martin de Scalls
49. The Abbot of St. Placido di Messina
50. The Abbot of St. Nicholas l'Arena
51. The Precentor of St. Calogero
52. The Prior of St. Mary la Nova de Morreale
53. The Abbot of Gangi lo Vecchio
54. The Abbot of St. Mary di Pedaly
55. The Abbot of the Holy Trinity of Castiglione
56. The Abbot of St. Ann la Portella
57. The Abbot of St. Mary dell'Arco
58. The Abbot of Santa Anastasia
59. The Abbot of the Holy Trinity of Delia
60. The Abbot of St. Mary del Fundrò
61. The Abbot of St. Philip di St. Lucia

In the above list are included the abbeyes which are at present united in one individual, who will have but one vote in the Chamber of Peers, according to the decree of the Parliament; it not being possible to separate such abbeyes, as, on the demise of the actual possessor, such abbeyes are divided.

The three abbeyes of St. Philip d'Argiro, St. Elia d'Ambola, and of the Most Holy Saviour la Placa are not, however, inserted in the above list, as they have been assigned to the learned university of Palermo, and have on that account lost their representative voice in the Chamber of Peers, but have acquired another in that of the Commons, agreeably to the decree of the Parliament.

The above list of the Parliamentary prelates and abbots, now called Spiritual Peers, is extracted from the roll which is preserved in the office of the Prothonotary of the Kingdom of Sicily.

GAETANO RUTÉ, Royal Condjutor.

LIST OF THE TEMPORAL PEERS.

1. The Prince of Butera
2. The Prince of Castelvetrano
3. The Prince of Paternò
4. The Prince of Castelbuono
5. The Prince of Trabia
6. The Prince of Castiglione
7. The Prince of Villafranca
8. The Prince of Paceo
9. The Prince of Roccaforta
10. The Prince of Scaletta
11. The Prince of Maletto
12. The Prince of Pantellaria
13. The Prince of Palazzolo
14. The Prince of Leonforte
15. The Prince of Carini
16. The Prince of Castelnuovo
17. The Prince of Campofranco
18. The Prince of Aragona
19. The Prince of Scordia
20. The Prince of Valguarnera
21. The Prince of Resuttano
22. The Prince of Partanna
23. The Prince of Malvagna
24. The Prince of Calvaruso
25. The Prince of Monforte
26. The Prince of Palagonia
27. The Prince of Cassaro
28. The Prince of Biscari
29. The Prince of Mesaajuso
30. The Prince of Montevago
31. The Prince of Mirto
32. The Prince of Glati
33. The Prince of Raffadali
34. The Prince of Militello V. D.
35. The Prince of Cerami
36. The Prince of Campoflorito
37. The Prince of Aci SS. Ant. and Filippo
38. The Prince of Sciarra
39. The Prince of St. Antonino
40. The Prince of Comitini
41. The Prince of Furnari
42. The Prince of Rosolini
43. The Prince of Spadafora
44. The Prince of Rammacca
45. The Prince of St. Teodoro
46. The Prince of Belmonte
47. The Prince of Ficirizzi
48. The Prince of the Mola
49. The Prince of Camporeale
50. The Prince of Castelforte
51. The Duke of Bivona
52. The Duke of Castrofilippo
53. The Duke of Palma
54. The Duke of Raitano
55. The Duke of Montegna
56. The Duke of Pilsino
57. The Duke of Serradifalco
58. The Duke of Sperlinga
59. The Duke of Gualtieri
60. The Duke of Misterbianco
61. The Duke of Cesarò
62. The Duke of Caraci
63. The Duke of Castelluccio
64. The Duke of Acquaviva
65. The Duke of St. Giacomo Villarosa
66. The Duke of Sorrentino
67. The Duke of Vatticani
68. The Duke of Bronte
69. The Marquis of Marineo
70. The Marquis of Giarratana
71. The Marquis of Sambuca
72. The Marquis of Montemaggiore
73. The Marquis of Santa Croce
74. The Marquis Sortino
75. The Marquis of the Motta
76. The Marquis of Tritorici Li Graniti
77. The Marquis of Roccalumera
78. The Marquis of S. Cataldo
79. The Marquis of Ogliastro
80. The Marquis of Lucca
81. The Marquis of Capizzi
82. The Marquis of Mongiuffi Melia
83. The Marquis of Camporotondo
84. The Marquis of Alimena
85. The Marquis of Marata la Cerdà
86. The Marquis of the Bagni
87. The Marquis of S. Ferdinando
88. The Marquis of Marianopoli, sen Man-ehi Raddusa
89. The Count of Modica
90. The Count of Nisi
91. The Baron of the Ficarra
92. The Baron of Castania
93. The Baron of S. Stefano of Mistretta
94. The Baron of Tripi
95. The Baron of Longi
96. The Baron of Pettineo
97. The Baron of Prizzi
98. The Baron of the Martini
99. The Baron of Rocca
100. The Baron of Godrano
101. The Baron of Casalnuovo
102. The Baron of Vita
103. The Baron of Tusa
104. The Baron of S. Carlo
105. The Baron of Vallerlunga
106. The Baron of Caggi
107. The Baron of Bascina
108. The Baron of the Ferla
109. The Baron of Galidoro
110. The Baron of Riesi, seu Altariva
111. The Baron of Villadoro
112. The Baron of Campobello
113. The Baron of Malinventre, seu Catena nuova
114. The Baron of Villasmundo
115. The Baron of Castelnormando
116. The Baron of Giardinello
117. The Baron of Pachino
118. The Baron of S. Pietro Clarenza
119. The Baron of Aliminusa
120. The Baron of Villalba
121. The Baron of S. Cono
122. The Baron of Villana
123. The Baron of S. Stefano di Briga
124. The Baron of Belvidere

The above list of the parliamentary Princes, Dukes, Marquises, Counts, and Barons, now called temporal Peers, is extracted from the roll which is preserved in the office of the Prothonotary of the Kingdom of Sicily.

GAETANO RUTÉ, Royal Condjutor.

TABLE

OF THE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CHAMBER OF COMMONS,

With the Population of the respective Cities and Lands, according to the Census of 1796, and
agregably to the decree of the Parliament.

Cities and Lands.	Population.	Votes.	Cities and Lands.	Population.	Votes.
Palermo		8	Mazara	8,335	1
Messina		3	Mazmarino	10,686	1
Catania		3	Mendi	6,136	1
Aci Reale	14,994	1	Milazzo	6,320	1
Adernò	8,623	1	Militello V. N.	7,265	1
Alcamo	13,900	1	Mineo	6,026	1
Aragona	6,532	1	Mistretta	8,050	1
Augusta	9,443	1	Modica	17,574	1
Avola	6,782	1	Monte S. Giuliano	8,172	1
Biancavino	8,080	1	Morrealo	12,776	1
Bronte	9,253	1	Musumeli	9,276	1
Caccamo	6,424	1	Naro	10,739	1
Calatafimi	10,000	1	Nicosia	12,664	1
Caltagirone	19,609	2	Niscemi	6,678	1
Caltanissetta	15,627	1	Noto	11,065	1
Canicattì	16,435	1	Palazzolo	8,520	1
Cosini	7,000	1	Partanna	11,060	1
Calascibetta (from having had a representative)		1	Partinico	9,772	1
Castelbuono	7,060	1	Paternò	9,808	1
Castellomare	6,000	1	Patti (from having had a representative)		1
Castelvetro	11,782	1	Petralia Sottana	6,351	1
Castrogiovanni	11,143	1	Piazza	11,904	1
Castronovo (from having had a representative)		1	Pietraperzia	8,292	1
Castroreale e Casali	11,146	1	Pozzo di Goto (from having had a representative)		1
S. Cataldo	7,879	1	Polizzi	Idem	1
Catolica	7,060	1	Prizzi	7,435	1
Cefalù	8,937	1	Ragusa	16,616	1
Chianamonte	6,504	1	Rasazza (from having had a representative)		1
Chiusa	6,002	1	Randazzo	Idem	1
Ciminna	6,150	1	Racalmuto	7,640	1
Comiso	10,445	1	Salemi	12,258	1
Corleone	12,587	1	Sambuca	5,728	1
Favara	7,398	1	Sciacca	11,514	1
S. Filippo d'Argiro	6,118	1	Scicli	6,639	1
Girgenti	14,882	1	Siracusa	13,851	1
Grammichele	7,687	1	Sortino	7,155	1
Leonforte	9,757	1	Spaccalorino	8,095	1
Lenta	11,250	1	Sutera (from having had a representative)		1
Lìcola	6,905	1	Taormina	Idem	1
Lisaguglios (from having had a representative)		1	Termini	14,150	1
Lipari	12,483	1	Terranova	8,234	1
S. Lucia (from having had a representative)		1	Tortorici (from having had a representative)		1
Lentini (from having had a representative)		1	Traina	7,091	1
Mariucco	6,545	1	Trapani	24,350	2
S. Margherita	7,274	1	Vitoria	8,966	1
Marsala	29,559	2	Vizzini	9,181	1
Masali	13,705	1			
			105		
The representatives of the 23 districts, at 2 for each district					46
The University of Palermo					1
Ditto, having lost a representative voice in the Chamber of Peers as possessing certain Abbeys					1
The University of Catania					1
			Total		
			154		

The above is a copy of the List of the Populations, according to the Census of 1796, entitled to be represented in the Chamber of Commons, which is deposited in the archives of the office of the Prothonotary of the Kingdom of Sicily.

GAETANO RUTÉ, Royal Coadjutor.

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